

PROJECT RESULTS

A brief history of the Burnham House site and the larger Noxon's Adventure property was crafted during the Phase IA study (Baublitz et al. 2006), yet the physical remains of the site were mostly unexplored. The Phase I and Phase II studies conducted within the scope of this project, therefore, had several basic goals relating to the identification of architectural and archaeological remains within the general project area and the subsequent evaluation of these identified remains for their potential eligibility for the NRHP. As such, the project was guided by several overarching goals.

The first goal was to conclusively determine the size and extent of the Burnham House site. Although the above-ground architectural remains suggest a site nucleus, the historic research shows that Noxon's Adventure was 300 acres (121.4 ha) in size and the Burnham farm comprised 187 acres (75.7 ha). Moreover, Old Reedy Island Road, one of the oldest roadways in the area, traversed the parcel north of the current project area. As such, it was believed that historic remains existed beyond the known architectural remains. The Phase I study, combined with the Phase II work, aimed to place the site remains in their appropriate context and determine the quantity and size of all architectural and archaeological remains recorded within the project limits of disturbance.

The second research goal was to assess the vertical and horizontal integrity of the site. Although physical remains in the form of architectural remnants and artifacts are present on the parcel, the site must have good physical integrity to contain notable information on area history. The vertical and horizontal integrity of the site were determined via systematic archaeological excavations.

A third goal involved gaining an understanding of the chronological history of the site. During the Phase IA, A.D. Marble conducted archival research on the parcel to uncover details on area history. What was not known at the conclusion of their report, however, was exactly which historical events were represented by CRS # N-5151, the remains of the Burnham House. The Dovetail archaeological survey, combined with the architectural analysis and additional archival research established a chronological connection between the remains and the site's history. This, in turn, aided in the site's evaluation for NRHP eligibility under Criteria A, B, C and D, and helped guide future field initiatives in this area.

These three research goals will be addressed in detail within this report. The goals outlined here inspired a variety of research questions that also shaped investigations at the Burnham House site. Research questions to be examined here include:

1. What is the diachronic use of the project parcel? Does the changing nature of the landscape reflect general socio-cultural and economic transformations in New Castle County?

2. With three centuries of potential use, did the occupants of the parcel use one building during the majority of the occupation period or did each subsequent owner rebuild to suit their specifications? What architectural materials did they use for each new building?
3. On a larger scale, how does this site fit within the larger historic context of New Castle County? Does the Burnham House site represent any themes or temporal periods not currently represented within the broader spectrum of eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth century studies in this area?

Architectural Analysis

Although the Burnham House was no longer extant during the current investigation, field observations, aided by a set of documentary photographs captured in 1988, helped decipher its construction chronology and building style. As originally built, the late-1860s Burnham House was a two-story, five-bay, vernacular Gothic Revival I-house with an L-shaped plan (Figure 17–Figure 20, p. 32–34). The foundation was formed of uncoursed stone rubble fastened with unlimed mud mortar, and the timber frame was clad in weatherboard.



Figure 17: Burnham House in 1988, Southwest Oblique (N-5151).



Figure 18: Overview of the Burnham House Today, facing Northeast.



Figure 19: Northeast Oblique of the Burnham House in 1988 (N-5151).

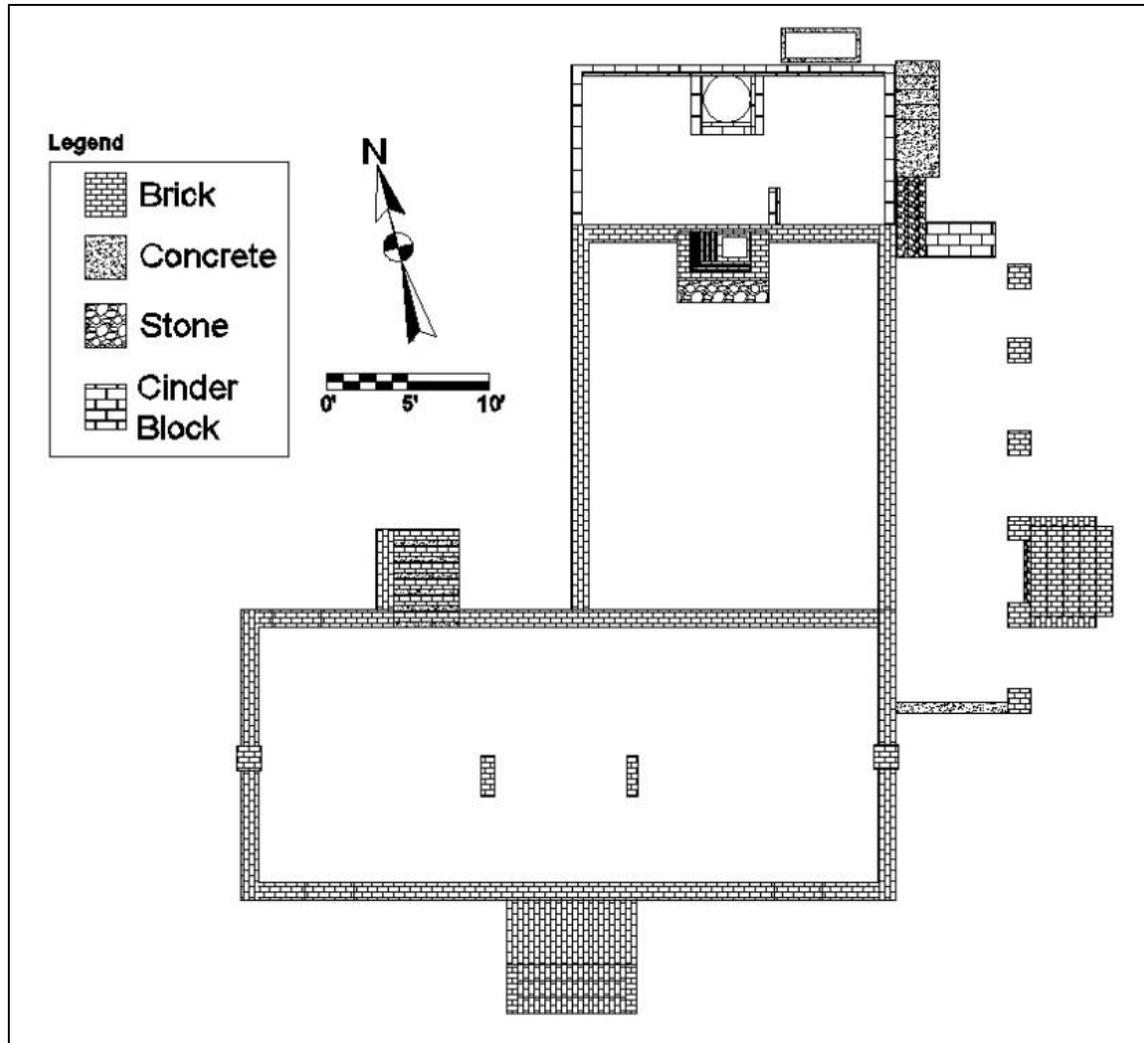


Figure 20: Detail Measured Drawing of the Burnham House.

One of the most interesting features of the house was the brick transition noted on top of the foundation that provided an anchor for the timber frame above. The existing transition is formed of early-twentieth century, machine-pressed bricks fastened with Portland cement (Figure 21, p. 35). Each elevation is laid in a different brick bond (3:1, 5:1, and 7:1 common bond); all three bonds are intermixed on the north elevation alone. Given the late-1860s construction date of the main house and the presence of low-fired, hand-made brick elsewhere in the structural composition, it is thought that the transition was originally formed of hand-made brick. With the extreme porosity of the brick material (as evidenced on the extant hand-made brick chimney in the kitchen ell) and overall softness of the brick body, it appears that the original brick foundation-to-superstructure transition failed and was replaced piecemeal in the early-twentieth century. This clarifies the use of multiple brick bonds, as the transition was knocked out section by section and replaced, thus avoiding the need to lift the entire home to replace this structural feature.



Figure 21: Wall Detail Showing Brick Transition over Stone Foundation.

The side-gable roof and the central cross gable on the primary elevation were clad in ungalvanized standing-seam metal. Photographs show a simple, undecorated fascia board under the eaves and around the roof cornice. Interior-end brick chimneys pierced the roof along the east and west elevations. It appears that the eastern stack contained a ceramic thimble. Fenestration throughout the building was symmetrical, but the building's poor condition when documented in 1988 precludes an analysis of exact window and door details. The centrally placed, primary (south) entrance door was missing in 1988, but the frame for the original rectangular transom above the door opening remained. A round-arched hood supported by a simple box cornice covered the main entry. The door was accessed by a set of steps manufactured from cinderblock and machine-made brick; the style and material composition of the steps suggest a mid-twentieth century construction date. By the 1988 documentation, windows were missing their glass but ghosts illustrate the historic use of flanking shutters. A Gothic-arched window was located in the apex of the cross gable on the primary elevation. This pointed Gothic arch is an interesting

juxtaposition to the rounded Craftsman/Colonial Revival-styled hood above the main door. Together, they help illustrate the numerous stylistic modifications completed on the dwelling over its century-long existence.

The two-story kitchen ell on the rear (north) of the home was constructed at the same time as the original massing, in the late 1860s. The foundation, brick transition, structural system and roofing are all composed of the same materials as the main section of the house. One notable difference is the retention of the original hand-made brick used to construct the large kitchen firebox and chimney. Although recently deteriorated due to two decades of exposure to elements, the chimney still retains numerous clues on the interior decoration of this space, such as the use of mud plaster with a lime-based finishing coat covered in whitewash on the walls, and the presence of a no-longer-extant wooden mantle over the jack-arched firebox (evidenced by putt-holes in the brick and central keystone) (Figure 22). Subsequent additions to the main house included a one-story sleeping porch along the east elevation and a one-story, shed-roofed cinderblock addition on the north side of the kitchen ell.



Figure 22: Detail of Kitchen Chimney, Looking North.
Mantle putt-holes circled in red.

In sum, the 1988 photographs, the extant architectural materials, and the archaeological remains confirm that the Burnham House was constructed in the late-1860s in a

vernacular Gothic Revival style. It underwent two subsequent large-scale modifications. One set of changes occurred in the early-twentieth century, when the sleeping porch was appended to the east elevation, and the brick transition between the stone foundation and timber frame structural system was replaced. It is probable that the Craftsman/Colonial Revival primary entry hood was also added at this time. The second set of changes was completed in the mid-twentieth century when the rear cinderblock addition was attached to the kitchen, and the steps leading to both the main doorway and the east entry were rebuilt (Figure 23). The entire building was demolished by fire sometime after 1992.



Figure 23: Rear Cinderblock Addition.

The house has one possible associated structure, and eight known associated structures. These remains were given sequential structure numbers as reflected on the site plan map (Figure 24, p. 38). [Note: They were labeled as “structures” and not “buildings” because their use was not known, i.e., barn, shed, animal pen, work platform, etc).

The possible structure visible in mid-twentieth century aerial views now consists of a push pile. The eight known structures represent several construction methods, although the usage for many remains a mystery. Of the structures, two consist of a stone and mortar foundation, three consist solely of a poured concrete foundation, one consists of both concrete block and poured concrete foundation, one is a windmill, and one is a shed which is still standing (Figure 25, p. 39). The windmill (Structure 5), constructed of

metal, stands approximately 45 feet (13.7 m) tall with a machine-made brick-lined well below (Figure 26, p. 39).

The shed (Structure 6) is timber-framed, constructed mostly of hand-hewn beams joined through mortise, tenon, and peg technology. The front-gable roof and sides are clad with corrugated tin siding and rest atop a stone pier foundation. A central entryway with opposing window opening is located on the gable sides. Within the shed are multiple cut-outs in the upper gable sides, possibly the location of past beams used for the drying of various materials. Extending approximately 40 feet (12.2 m) west of the shed is a poured concrete retaining wall. The wall has collapsed in parts, but appears to have been used as an animal pen, given the presence of fencing throughout the area.

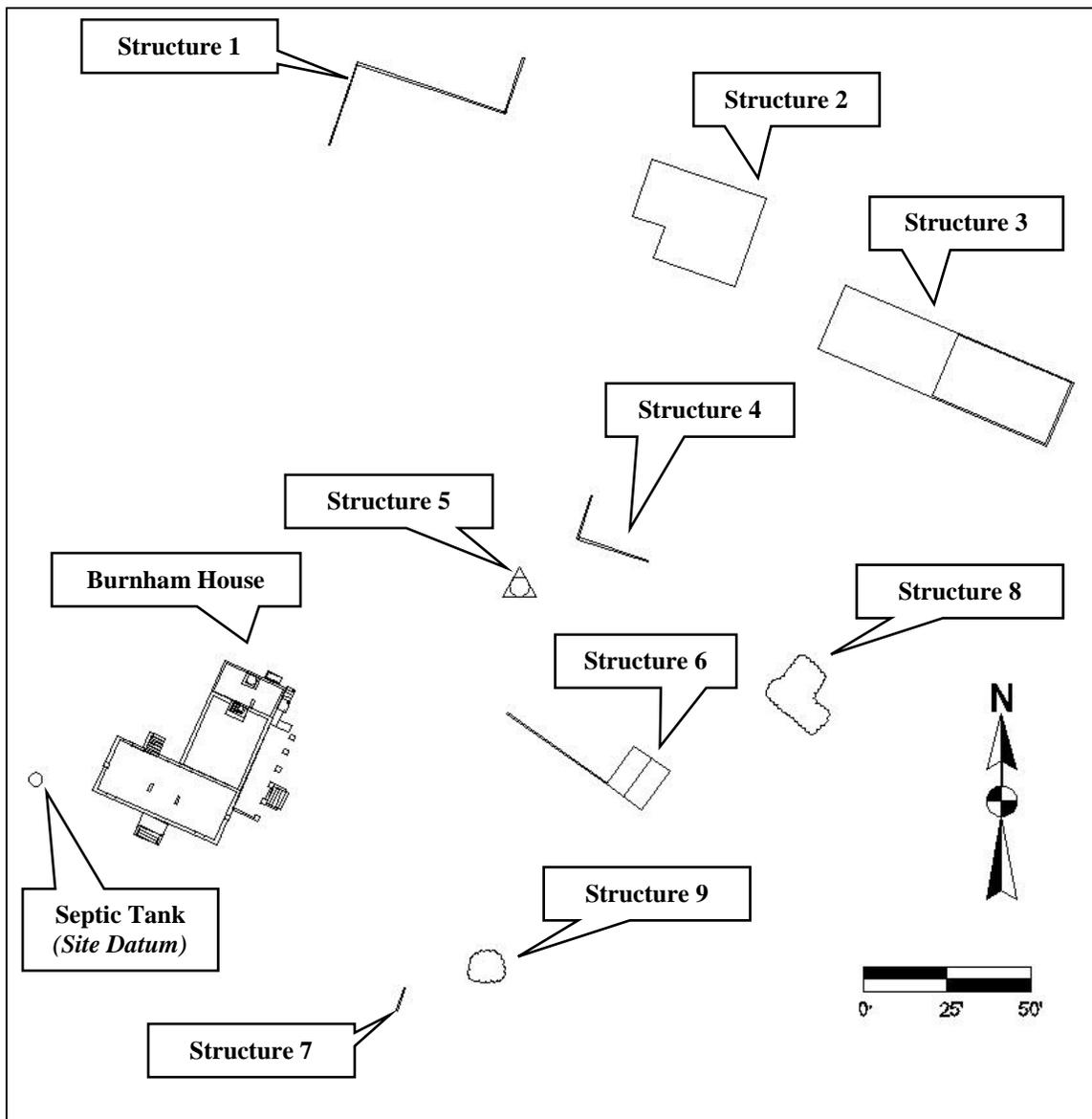


Figure 24: Burnham House Site (7NC-F-157) Plan Map.



Figure 25: Standing Shed, Structure 6.



Figure 26: Standing Windmill, Structure 5.

Archaeological Survey

Phase I Survey Results

In support of the site size determination goal previously outlined as well as to more conclusively define site boundaries, Phase I investigations were conducted adjacent to the known Burnham House location (Figure 27). Survey occurred along the 5.6-acre (2.3-ha) area located north and south of the main site nucleus as depicted on the project maps (see Figure 6 and Figure 7, pp. 7–8). The northern and southern areas were delineated in a proposed meeting with DelDOT and the DE SHPO based on the limitation of project construction and natural landscape features. The northern survey area is bounded on the east, north, and west by the limits of construction and to the south by a tree line (Figure 28 and Figure 29, p. 42). The southern survey area was bounded by construction limits on the east, south, and west and by a tree line to the north (see Figure 6, p. 7).



Figure 27: Phase I Survey Area with Pin Flags Marking Surface Finds.

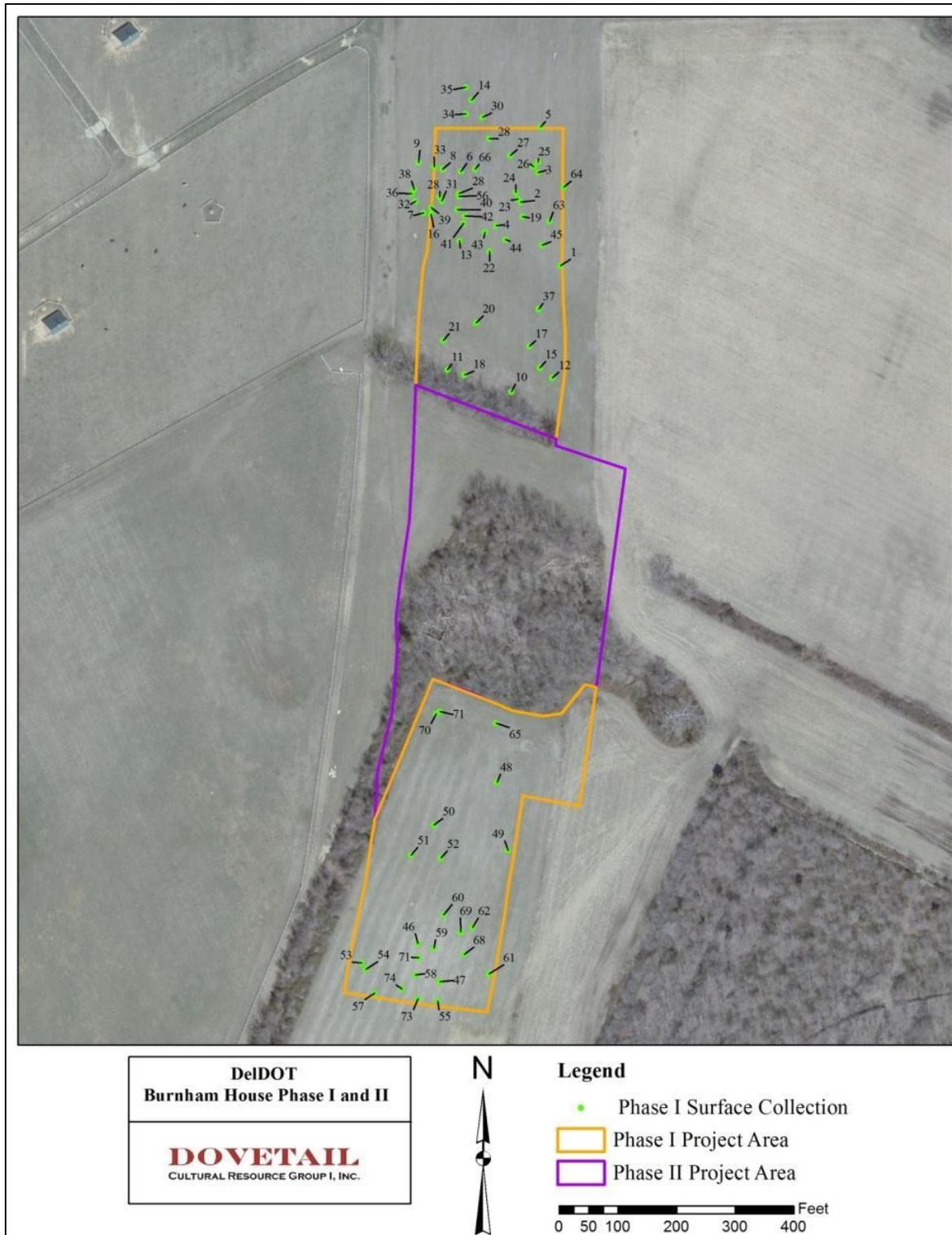


Figure 28: Phase I Surface Collection Locations.

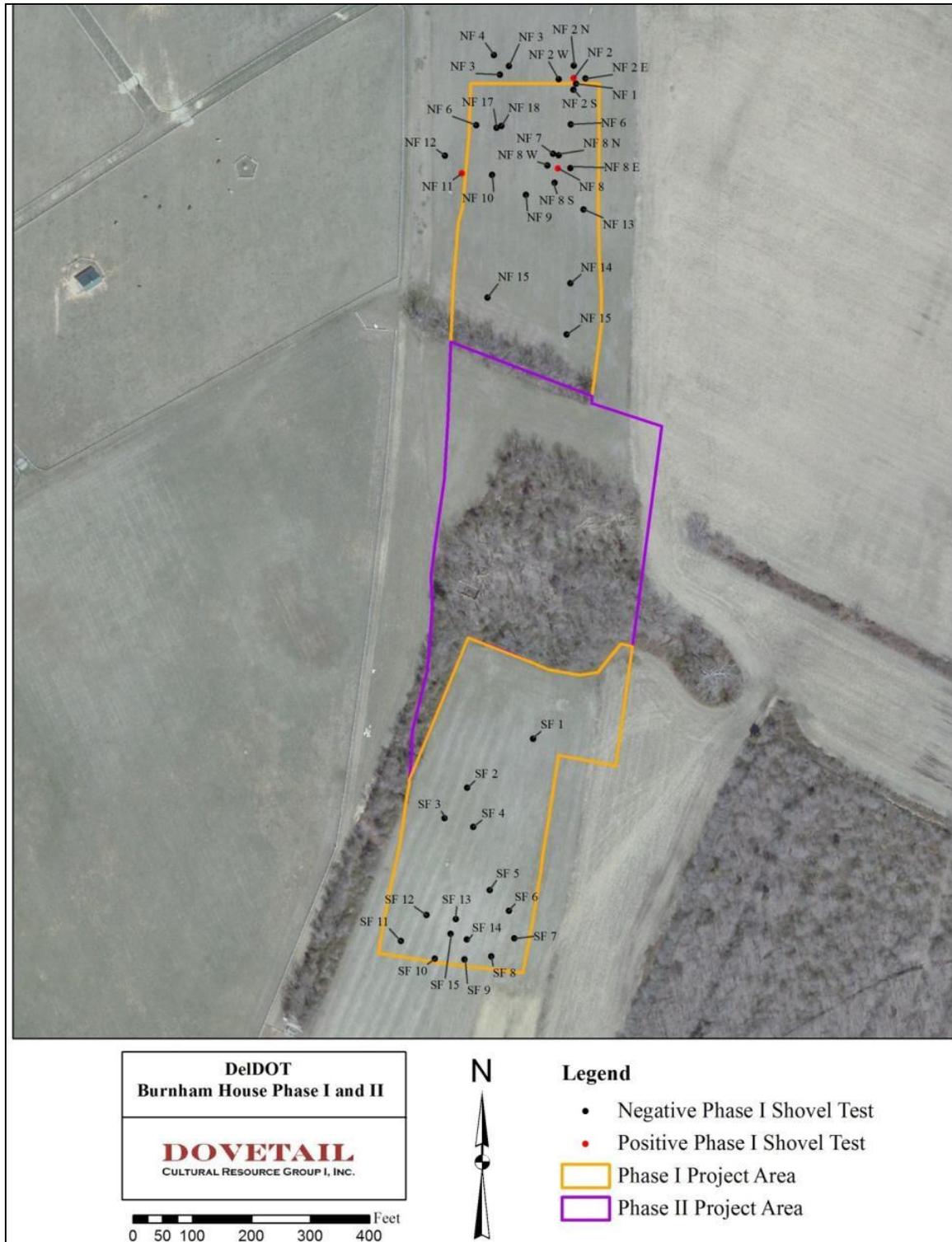


Figure 29: Phase I Shovel Testing Locations (SF=South Field, NF=North Field).

Phase I shovel testing was conducted in areas where clusters of artifacts were found and areas where notable artifacts were recovered (see Figure 29, p. 42). This testing revealed the presence of both modern and historic plow zones. The modern plow zone extended to an average depth of 11.5 inches (29.2 cm) and a maximum depth of 15 inches (38.1 cm). It was characterized as a brown silty loam (10YR 4/3). Beneath the modern plow zone was a truncated historic plow zone that ranged from 4 to 6 inches (10.2 to 15.2 cm) in thickness. It was classified as a dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) silty loam. This historic plow zone overlay a culturally sterile yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay subsoil. Shovel tests overall depth averaged 16.9 inches (42.9 cm), with the deepest being 20 inches (50.8 cm) (Figure 30). Given the low density of artifacts recovered across a large area, the decision was made in consultation with DelDOT and the DE SHPO not to excavate test units in the Phase I project area.

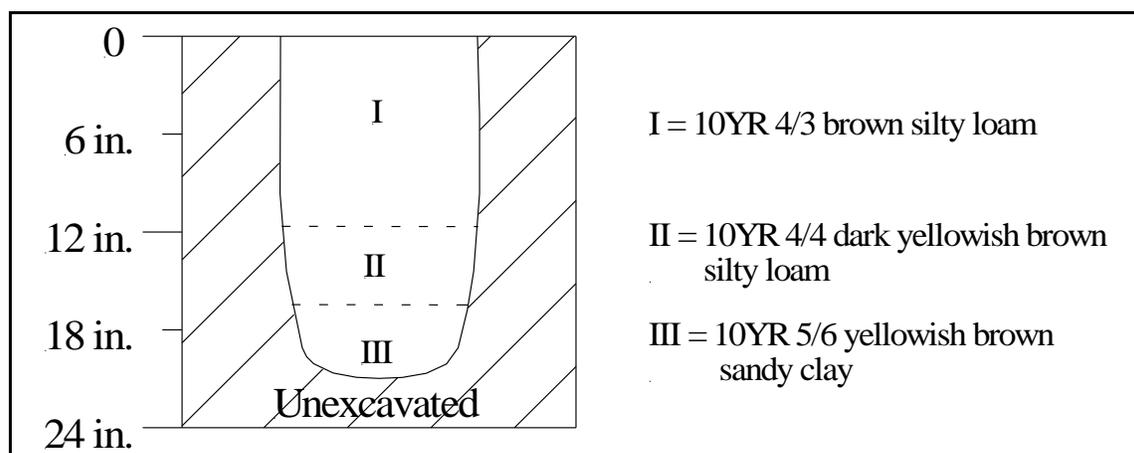


Figure 30: Representative Profile for Phase I Shovel Tests.

Phase I investigations resulted in the recovery of 77 historic artifacts. Forty-eight artifacts were surface collected in the northern area and 29 artifacts were surface collected in the southern area. Three artifacts were recovered from shovel testing in the north whereas all southern shovel tests were negative.

The combined Phase I artifact assemblage was highly fragmented from repeated plowing and agricultural planting. It contained architectural, ceramic, glass, organic, and other category remains. Notable artifacts include ungalvanized wire nails (1890–1945), post-industrial window glass, whiteware (1820–2000), redware (1700–1900), porcellaneous (1820–2000), ironstone (1840–2000), creamware (1762–1820), pearlware (1779–1830), clear bottle and vessel glass, aqua bottle glass, manganese bottle glass, and mammal bone (Figure 31, p. 44). The early ceramics, namely the creamware and pearlware, which predate the occupation of the Burnham House, were strictly found in the surface collection of the field north of the site. This occurrence is not surprising given the presence of Old Reedy Island Road, which formed the northern boundary of Burnham parcel. The first depiction of the occupation of the parcel in the archival record indicates houses along this road, north of the current project area.

During the March 7, 2011 field consultation meeting between DelDOT and Dovetail, it was decided based on artifact densities and shovel test stratigraphy that the artifacts identified during Phase I testing constituted field scatters and were not directly representative of the historic occupation of the Burnham House. The recovered artifacts are likely associated with the nineteenth century practice of manuring agricultural fields. Manure spread across fields included low densities of trash and garbage from the farm, therefore low-density scatters (as observed during Phase I testing) in agricultural fields are commonplace. Furthermore, subsurface testing in the Phase I project areas showed evidence of both modern and truncated historic plow zones, which further supports the conclusions that these artifacts do not constitute meaningful or concentrated historic activity. Based on this conclusion, CRS or site numbers were assigned to these artifacts.

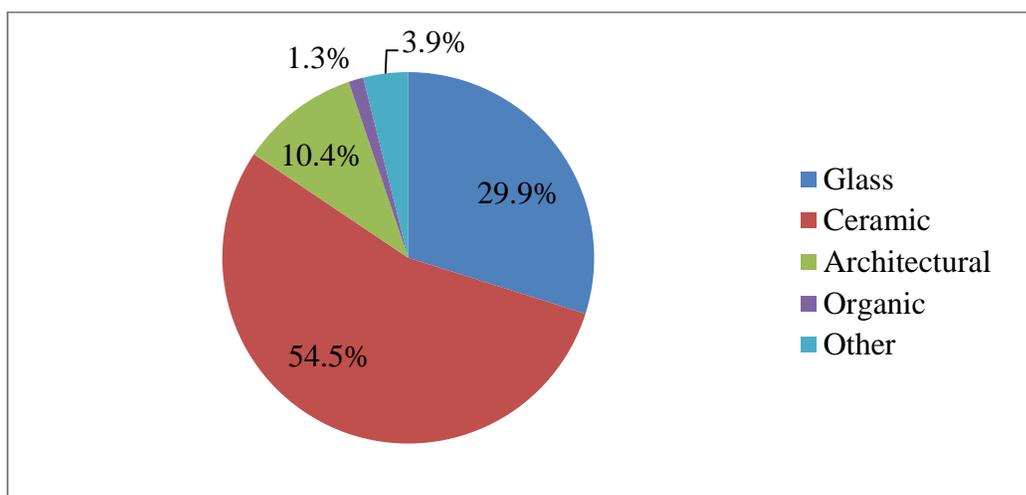


Figure 31: Distribution of Phase I Artifacts.

Phase II Testing Results

Phase II investigations were conducted on the 4.4 acres (1.8 ha) located in the middle portion of the project area (see Figure 6 and Figure 7, pp. 7–8). This portion of the survey involved the establishment of a testing grid, close-interval shovel testing, and test unit excavation in an effort to evaluate the known Burnham House site for NRHP eligibility. The testing grid established by A.D. Marble could not be relocated; therefore a new grid was established. This grid was specifically oriented to align with the architectural ruins and landscape features to maximize the likelihood of identifying additional cultural features and artifacts. Additionally a new site datum was established, located southwest of the Burnham House ruins (grid location N 1000, E 1000).

The Dovetail architectural analysis resulted in the identification of nine buildings/structures across the property in addition to the Burnham House ruins (see Figure 24, p. 38). The results of the architectural investigation directly shaped the Phase II testing strategy, as most of the test units were placed adjacent to identified above-ground resources or in areas where additional architectural remains were identified below the ground surface (Figure 32, p. 45).



Figure 32: Test Unit 3 Laid into the Corner of the Burnham House Foundation.

Close-Interval Shovel Testing

Close-interval shovel testing resulted in the excavation of 233 shovel tests across the entire Phase II project area; of these, 85 were positive for cultural material (Figure 33, p. 46). All artifacts recovered during this testing were historic remains. Shovel test stratigraphy within the boundaries of the Phase II area was highly variable ranging from 6 inches (15.2 cm) to 36 inches (91.4 cm) in depth. These shovel tests, which contained as few as two layers to as many as four layers, indicated the amount of disturbance that had taken place within the core area of the Burnham House site. Therefore, rather than addressing the varied stratigraphic profiles of the shovel tests in this section, site stratigraphy is addressed with regard to the test unit excavations. (The test units allowed for better interpretations of stratigraphy and soil disturbance due to their larger size and spatial distribution across the site and should be seen as more reliable in this regard concerning soil formation at the Burnham House site) (Figure 34, p. 47).

Also noted during close-interval shovel testing was extensive surface disturbance in the form of push piles created by heavy machinery as well as widespread historic and modern dumping (Figure 35, p. 47). Multiple shovels test, especially those adjacent to these push piles or dumps, showed evidence of subsurface stratigraphic disturbance as manifested by truncated or absent A-horizons, mottled clay-rich fill strata, and the presence of subsoil

on the ground surface. Recent and/or historic maintenance or cleaning of the property has undoubtedly disturbed the context of archaeological materials in various portions of the site.

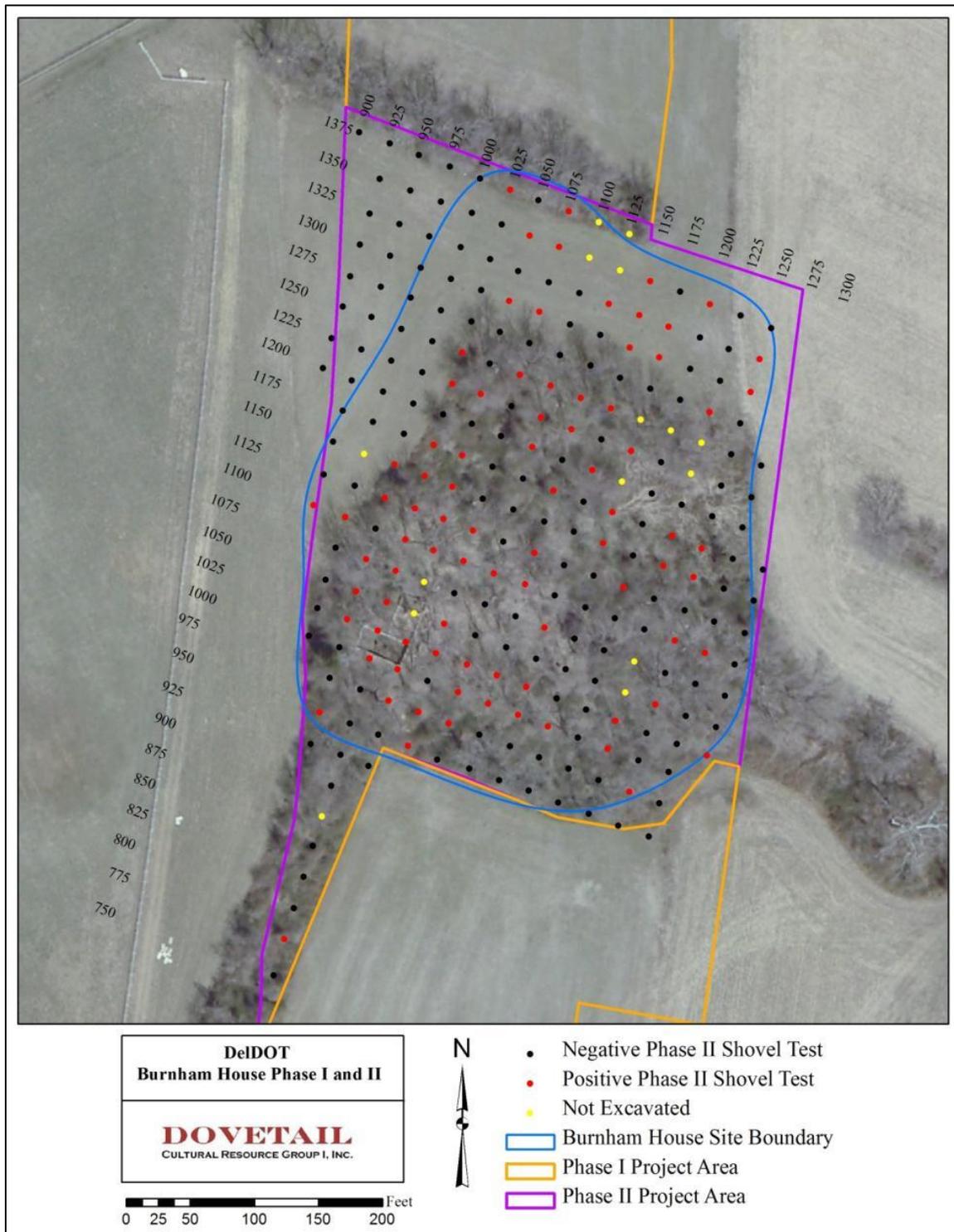


Figure 33: Phase II Close-Interval Shovel Testing Results.



Figure 34: Checkerboard Pattern of Test Units Allowed for a More Nuanced Investigation of Soils at the Burnham House Site.



Figure 35: Push Pile Disturbance Common Across the Site, Facing Northeast.

Test Units

It was anticipated that up to 40 test units would be excavated across the Phase I and Phase II project areas. Yet, as previously described, the lack of concentrated artifacts identified during the Phase I examination obviated test unit excavation in these areas. As such, during the field consultation meeting on March 7, 2011 with DelDOT, it was decided that 30 test units would be sufficient to fully examine and evaluate the Burnham House site, with all units being concentrated in the Phase II project area (Figure 36, p. 49).

Test unit placement was guided by the results of the architectural analysis and Phase II close-interval shovel testing. Based on the research goals and questions outlined above, the major focus of test unit excavation was the main Burnham House ruins. As such, Test Units 1–5 and 8 were located in and around these ruins (Figure 37, p. 50). As outlined previously, a walkover survey of the Phase II area identified nine structures on the property, most of which had above-ground remains. The construction methods and functions of these structures were further examined by test unit excavation. Units were placed adjacent to or within all structures, except for the windmill (Structure 5). Structures were explored via test units 6, 7, 9–19, and 23–29. The remaining test units were used to explore artifact concentrations or anomalies identified during close-interval shovel testing. Thus, Test Units 20–22 and 30 were placed throughout the Phase II testing area at specific areas of interest to further explore the nature of these artifact concentrations.

Test units excavated around the main house revealed a great deal about construction methods, as well as the general site and depositional history. All the test units excavated at the main house (Units 1–5 and 8 shown in Figure 36, p. 49) showed evidence for the burning of the house. Based on aerial photography, the house burned between 1992 and 1997 (Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs, CHRIS 2011). Evidence for this burning episode was manifested by 1–2 feet (30.5–60.9 cm) of burn fill in all the test units within and adjacent to the house (Figure 38, p. 50). This stratum contained a mixture of burned modern and historic debris. It was removed in 4-inch (10.1-cm) arbitrary levels and screened for cultural materials in Test Units 1–4, but removed as a single unscreened stratum in Units 5 and 8. The decision to not screen this burn/disturbance stratum was made in consultation with DelDOT on March 7, 2011. This decision was based on the redundancy of artifacts from this context as well as the questionable integrity of this excavation stratum.

The strata below the burn/destruction layer in the test units around the house showed a notable lack of vertical integrity (Figure 39, p. 51). Test units located on the exterior of the house showed repeated evidence of intrusions in the form of scrape and fill layers associated with the mechanical disturbance of the ground surface. Most notably, clay fill layers containing modern trash such as aluminum Coke cans, plastic bags, Styrofoam, and plastic containers were found intermixed with historic strata to depths of 4 feet (121.9 cm) below the 1860s stone foundation supporting the house. In addition to this twentieth century human disturbance, test units showed extensive bioturbation from

rodent activity; burrows also extended below the stone foundation. Based on extensive subsurface disturbance noted consistently in the six test units excavated within and adjacent to the Burnham House, it was determined that little vertical and horizontal integrity remains in this portion of the site.

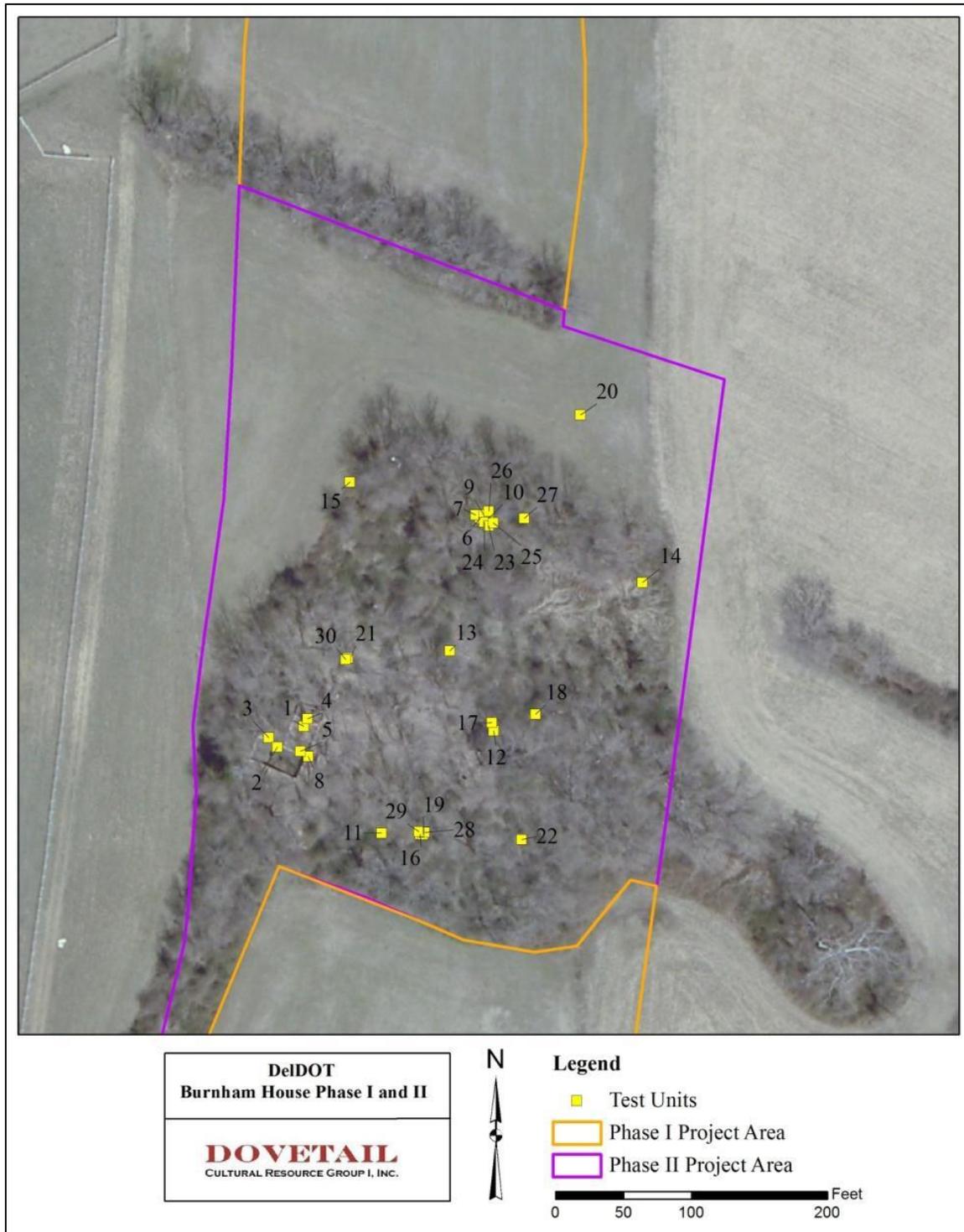


Figure 36: Phase II Test Unit Location Map.



Figure 37: Test Unit 2 Abutting Foundation Remains.



Figure 38: East Profile of Test Unit 2, Note the burn stratum.



Figure 39: West Profile of Test Unit 4, Note Modern Fill and Rodent Burrow.

Structure 1 is located in the northwestern portion of the site and consists of a poured concrete and concrete block foundation. This structure was investigated via the excavation of Test Unit 15, which was placed on the east side of the west wall, presumed to be the interior of the structure. Unit excavation revealed a shallow concrete foundation with a haphazardly laid stone footer.

Structures 2 and 9 are both stone and mortar foundations that were not visible on the surface. Structure 2 was identified by the presence of a large push pile containing large foundation cobbles and an abundance of mortar. To investigate the nature and origin of the push pile, Test Units 6, 7, 9, 10, and 23–27 were placed directly east of the push pile in an flat and open area. These units revealed the truncated remains of Structure 2, a possible barn, which is visible on historic aerial photography (Figure 40). Based upon unit excavation, it appears that heavy machinery was used to demolish this structure, creating the push pile to the west. As such the stone foundation remains exposed in Test Units 6, 10, 23 and 27 were truncated and disturbed by machinery. Based on unit excavation and soil probing using a penetrometer the dimensions of the barn appear to be 36 feet (10.9 m) east-west by 28 feet (8.5 m) north-south.

Test Units 16, 19, 28, and 29 were excavated approximately 125 feet (38.1 m) east of the main house. Close-interval shovel test N1000, E1150 identified a concentration of mortar that was further explored with these units. Excavation revealed the presence of a stone and mortar foundation, with no surface visibility. This foundation, named Structure 9, appears to have been similar in construction methods and technique to that of Structure 2.

Structures 3, 4, and 7 were all represented on the surface by poured concrete foundations and each was investigated further by test unit excavation. Test Unit 14 explored the northeastern interior corner of the Structure 3 (Figure 41). Test Unit 14 excavation revealed a shallow concrete foundation, lacking a footer. Structure 4 was investigated with Test Unit 13, placed exterior at the southwest corner of the above-ground foundation. Test Unit 11 was placed on the east side of the exposed poured concrete foundation associated with Structure 7.

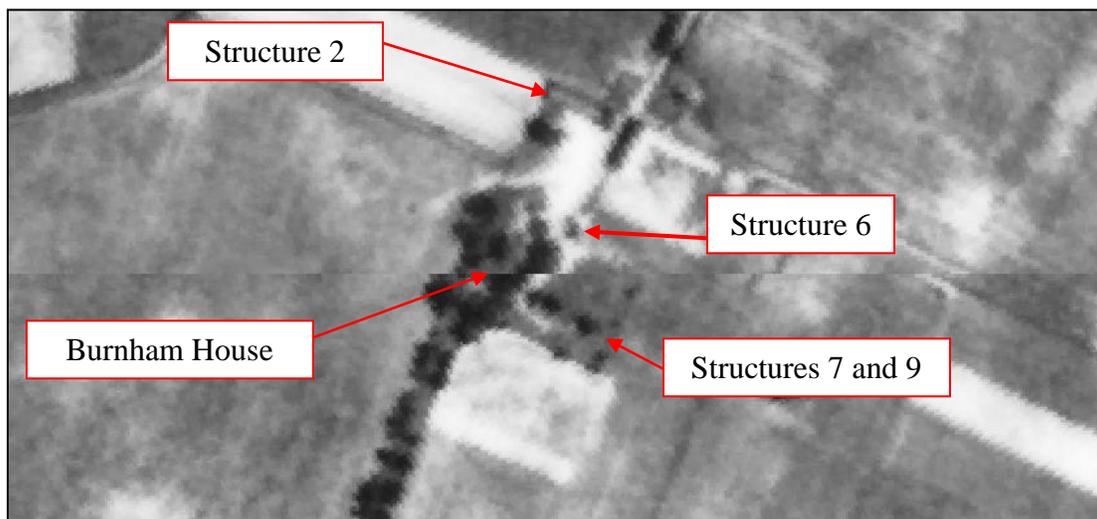


Figure 40: 1937 Aerial Photograph of the Burnham House Site (Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs, CHRIS 2011).



Figure 41: Artifacts from Structure 3. From top: cement fragment, cut nail with cut head, black lead glazed redware, and mammal mandible.

Structure 5 is the windmill and associated well noted by A.D. Marble (Baublitz et al. 2006) in their Phase IA report. The windmill stands 45 feet (13.72 m) tall. A machine-made brick-lined well lies adjacent to Structure 5. No test units were excavated at this location because the primary goals of this Phase II investigation were to identify the location/extent, function, and temporal affiliation of the site components. Given the above-ground materials and construction methods observed, Dovetail concluded that no subsurface investigation was warranted.

Test Units 12 and 17 were used to further explore the construction methods and the function of Structure 6, a standing framed shed (Figure 42, p.50). The most compelling physical evidence of the eighteenth/nineteenth/twentieth century interface, Structure 6 sits east of the Burnham House. The one standing outbuilding on the property exhibits construction modifications from three occupation centuries. Upon initial investigation, the building appears to be a dilapidated garage. Architectural analysis highlights original eighteenth century construction. The structure has a timber frame built using hand-hewn beams joined through mortise and tenon and peg technology. The structure was augmented and reused in the nineteenth century, when a new roof was installed. The interior was resurfaced with circular-sawn lumber fastened with cut nails. It was changed again in the twentieth century to accommodate the new automotive needs of the occupations through the installation of a large garage door on the south elevation and other structural changes utilizing ungalvanized wire nails.

It appears that Structure 6 is the remaining above-ground vestige of the earliest use of this property in the eighteenth century. The building was likely moved from its original location, near Reedy Island Road to the north, to its current location, near the Burnham House, in the 1860s when the property was reorganized.

Test Unit 12 was placed directly adjacent to the northeastern corner of Structure 6, to examine the rock pier foundation (Figure 43, p. 54). During the course of excavation, rock fall associated with the foundation was discovered. To further explore the nature of these stones, Test Unit 17 was opened to the northwest. Test Unit 17 confirmed the stones to be haphazardly arranged and lacking any clear articulation, thus confirming that they were likely displaced from the nearby foundation. Continued excavation in Test Unit 12 indicated that the building's corner was supported by a shallow stone pier. Additionally, excavation in both Test Units 12 and 17 showed evidence of periodic replacement of the corrugated metal siding on the building. This, along with the interior construction methods, suggest the building had undergone a series of structural, and likely functional, changes throughout its history.



Figure 42: View of Structure 6, Facing East.



Figure 43: North Wall Profile of TU 12, Showing Disturbance from Burning and Truncation.

The final outbuilding, Structure 8, was recorded as a possible structure because it is represented only through the presence of a large debris push pile. Contained within this push pile are an abundance of twentieth century remains including bottle glass, vessel glass, modern trash, and a limited amount of architectural remains. These architectural remains prompted further investigation to ascertain the location of a structure if present. As such, Test Unit 18 was excavated along the southwest margin of the push pile (Figure 44). No intact structural or building remains were encountered during this investigation.



Figure 44: North Wall Profile of TU 18, Showing Truncated Plowzone.

Artifact Analysis

Overall, the Phase II testing resulted in the recovery of 6,989 artifacts from 233 close-interval shovel tests and 30 test units (Figure 45; Figure 33 and Figure 36, pp. 56–46). The overall Phase II assemblage was dominated by architectural artifacts (72.1 percent; n=5,037), which is not surprising given the above-ground remains of the Burnham House and remnants of nine other structures. The collection also contains an abundance of vessel and/or bottle glass (14.5 percent; n=1,014). Large quantities of this artifact category is commonplace on twentieth century sites and is likely reflective of the later occupation of the property. During this period, glass was beginning to be mass produced and seen as a more disposable resource—a one-time use container in contrast to ceramics which continued to be reused (Figure 46, p. 56).

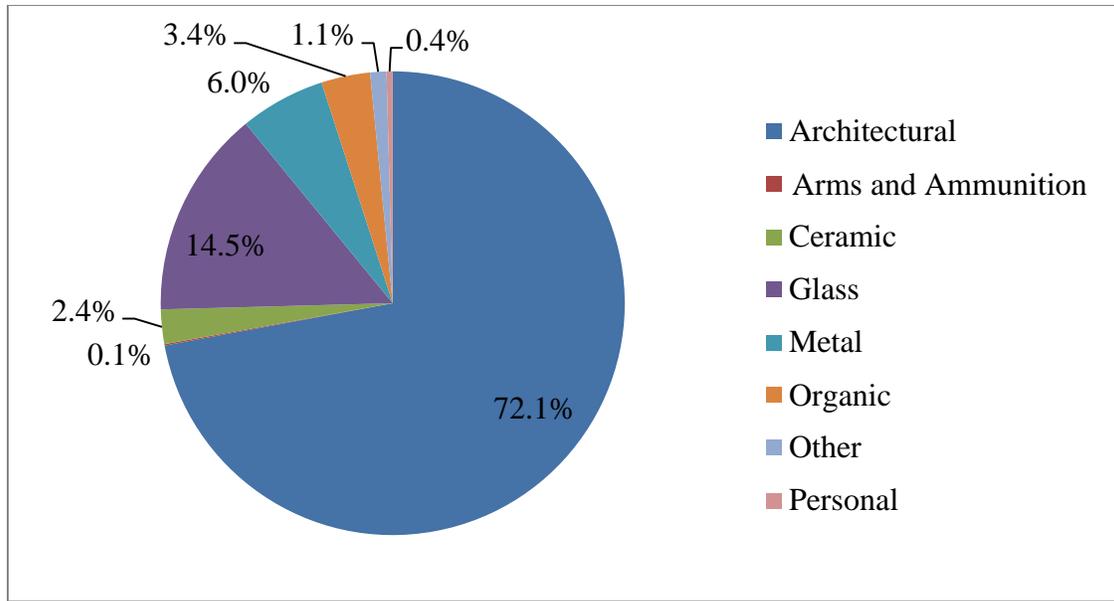


Figure 45: Distribution of Phase II Artifacts From Both Close-Interval Shovel Testing and Test Unit Excavation.



Figure 46: A Sample of Glass Collected from Structure 1.

The ceramic assemblage comprises 2.4 percent (n=168) of the overall Phase II collection (Figure 47, p. 57). This assemblage is particularly useful in further assessing the site's occupation timeframe and was used in this analysis to augment interpretations from both the archival and architectural analysis of the site. A calculation of the Mean Ceramic Date (MCD) which generally indicates a central habitation period, results in a mean occupation date of 1882 (Table 2, p. 58). According to historic documentation and the architectural analysis, the Burnham House was constructed in the late 1860s. Subsequently, in the early-twentieth century, the property underwent extensive renovation and updating. The MCD obtained from the site confirms this site history; however, it should also be noted that the reliability of MCDs post-1850 is suspect. During this period the variety of ceramics being manufactured was greatly reduced. From 1765–1840 ceramic manufacturing changed rapidly, thus making the pre-1840 period an optimal time for MCD calculation (Deetz 1996; National Park Service [NPS] 2011).



Figure 47: Sample of Nineteenth-Century Ceramics. Clockwise from top: burned whiteware rim, plain ironstone rim, blue shell-edged whiteware rim.

The ceramic assemblage is dominated by whiteware and ironstone artifacts, which refers to the mid to late-nineteenth century occupation of the Burnham House. The composition of the nail assemblage recovered from the Phase II investigation in the core area of the Burnham House site also corroborates this date, with the vast majority of nails being shafts with cut heads and only a small percentage being wire nails, most of those being ungalvanized (Figure 48, p. 59 and Figure 49, p. 60).

Table 2: Mean Ceramic Dates for Recovered Ceramics at the Burnham House
(DAACS 2006).

ARTIFACT	DECORATION	DATE RANGE	MEDIAN	COUNT
hard paste	plain	1820-2000	1910	2
ironstone	Hand painted polychrome	1840-2000	1920	7
ironstone	plain	1840-2000	1920	25
ironstone	Transfer print	1840-2000	1920	15
ironstone	yellow glaze	1840-2000	1920	2
pearlware	plain	1779-1830	1805	1
pearlware	shell edged	1780-1830	1805	1
pearlware	Transfer print	1795-1840	1818	3
porcellaneous	plain	1820-2000	1910	4
redware	Brown Glazed with Manganese Flecking	1700-1900	1800	8
redware	Lead Glazed	1700-1900	1800	12
redware	plain	1700-1900	1800	4
rockingham	none	1830-1900	1915	2
stoneware	American Gray	1800-1900	1850	4
stoneware	Astbury	1725-1775	1750	3
stoneware	yellow glaze	1750-1920	1835	3
whiteware	blue transfer print	1820-1900	1860	1
whiteware	Hand painted/ underglazed/ monochrome	1820-2000	1910	3
whiteware	plain	1820-2000	1910	43
whiteware	polychrome	1830-1900	1865	1
whiteware	shell edged	1820-1900	1860	1
whiteware	transfer print	1820-1900	1860	12
yellowware	none	1830-1910	1870	1
			MCD	1882

The remainder of the collection consists of arms and ammunition materials (0.1 percent; n=7), metal (6 percent; n=416), organic (3.4 percent; n=234), other (1.1 percent; n=79), and personal items (0.4 percent; n=30). Arms and ammunition artifacts include shotgun shells and casing. The metal materials consist primarily of various unidentified metal objects, Mason jar lids, wire, staples, flat pressed metal, bolts, and screws. Organic artifacts include coal, clam shells, mammal and fowl bones. Items cataloged within the other category include tile, insulators, fabric, and light bulb fragments. Personal items consist of toy figurines, buttons, marbles, coins, a bell, a key, and button covers.



Figure 48: From Left: Cut Nails with Cut Heads (2) and Ungalvanized Wire Nails (2).

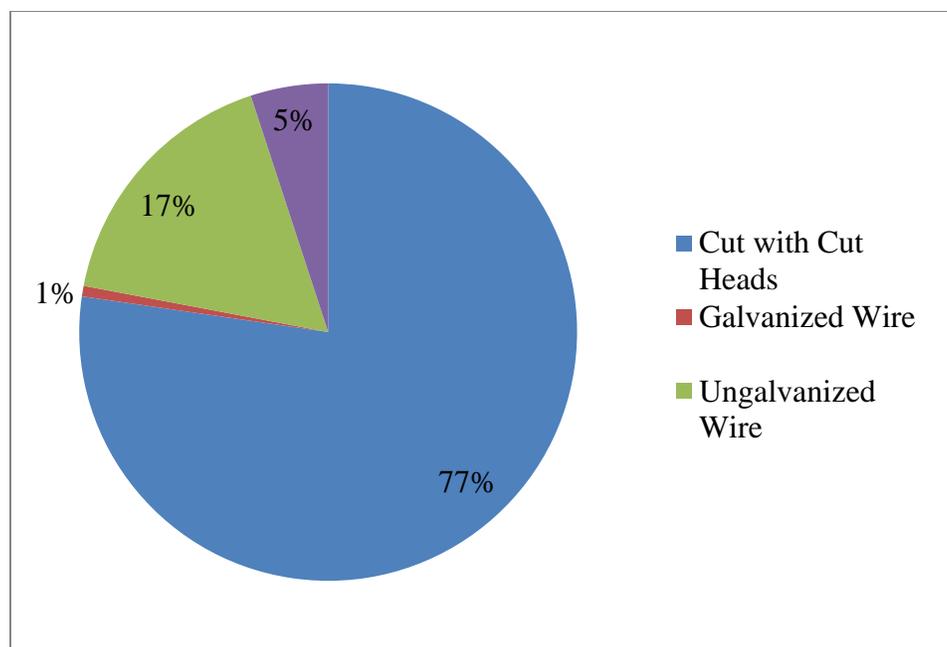


Figure 49: Nail Type Distribution from the Entire Phase II Assemblage.

The preponderance of architectural materials in the Phase II assemblage tends to mask the variability and importance of the other artifact categories in the assemblage (Figure 50, p. 61). Therefore, it becomes useful to remove the architectural artifacts from the analysis and recalculate the artifact percentages in order to examine the relationships between different artifact categories that represent everyday use and discard (Figure 51, p. 61). This recalculation reveals that glass dominates the assemblage (52 percent; $n=1,014$), again indicative of the container revolution that occurred around the end of the nineteenth century. Metal accounts for more than one-fifth of the assemblage (21 percent; $n=416$), indicating the increasing role that metal played in fencing beginning in the late-nineteenth century, industrialization that made metal objects and hardware more available, and changing farming practices that used mechanized equipment (Figure 52, p. 62). Finally, ceramics make up less than one-tenth of the assemblage (9 percent; $n=168$), reinforcing the importance of glass for everyday use on late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century sites.

Combined, the positive shovel tests resulted in the recovery of 389 artifacts (Figure 53, p. 62). The Phase II shovel testing assemblage was dominated by architectural materials (55.8 percent; $n=217$), predominantly nails and window glass, and glass (27 percent; $n=105$), dominated by bottle glass. The remaining portion of the assemblage consists of small percentages of ceramic (6.2 percent; $n=24$), arms and ammunition (0.3 percent; $n=1$), metal (3.9 percent; $n=15$), organic materials (3.6 percent; $n=14$), other (2.3 percent; $n=9$), and personal items (1 percent; $n=4$). Notable artifacts included mortar, white/lime plaster, post-industrial window glass, cut nails (1815–1890), ungalvanized wire nails (1890–1945), hand-made and machine-made brick fragments, whiteware (1820–2000), redware (1700–1900), ironstone (1840–2000), clear bottle and vessel glass, aqua bottle glass, a lead toy figurine, a milk glass button, and a glass marble.

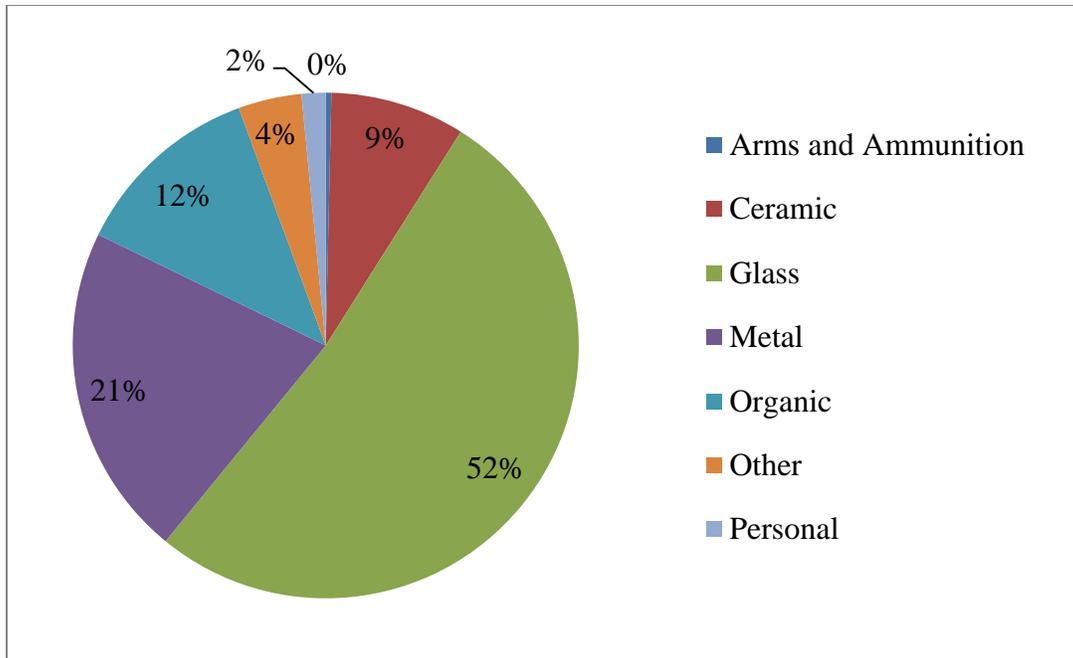


Figure 50: Distribution of Phase II Artifacts with Architectural Materials Removed from Both Close-Interval Shovel Testing and Test Unit Excavation.



Figure 51: Sample of Architectural Materials. Clockwise from top: ungalvanized wire nail, burned handmade brick, and window glass.



Figure 52: Sample of Architectural Artifacts. From top left: iron nut, Portland cement, lighting fixture fragment with brass attachment, .22 shell casing, iron bolt.

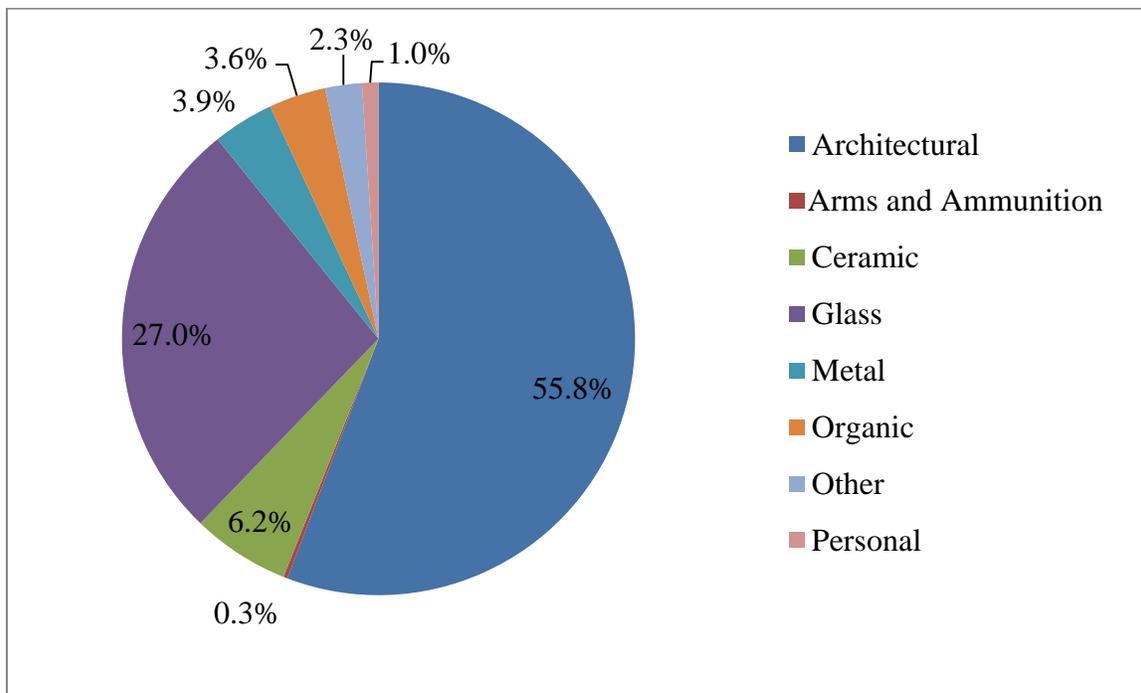


Figure 53: Phase II Shovel Testing Artifact Distribution.

The removal of architectural artifacts from the shovel test artifact category distribution shows greater variability between artifact categories and helps to better reveal disposal patterns on the site (Figure 54). Like the overall Phase II distributions, the artifacts from the shovel tests are dominated by glass (61 percent; n=105). However, ceramics make up the next largest category (14 percent; n=24), likely because the shovel test data represents more general refuse disposal patterns on the site since it draws from across the Burnham House yard. In contrast, the test unit data focuses primarily on structures, likely recovering a great deal of metal hardware from the different buildings. Nevertheless, metal still accounts for almost one-tenth of the assemblage (9 percent; n=15), showing the importance of this artifact category, but also indicating that its spatial distribution within the yard is not as high as the combined Phase II data make it seem, likely a bias of the placement of the test units.

Artifacts were most densely clustered to the east and south of the Burnham House ruins in the southwestern portion of the Phase II testing area. Additional clusters were observed at grid locations N1225, E1050 (Structure 2); N1025, E1125 (Structure 7); N1025; E1225; and N1325, E1175 (Figure 55, p. 64). These artifact concentrations were more often than not associated with structural remains visible on the site surface. As such, the distribution of architectural materials recovered mimics the patterns observed in the overall assemblage (Figure 56, p. 65). These concentrations observed through distribution maps, both architecturally related and not, were investigated further by test unit excavation.

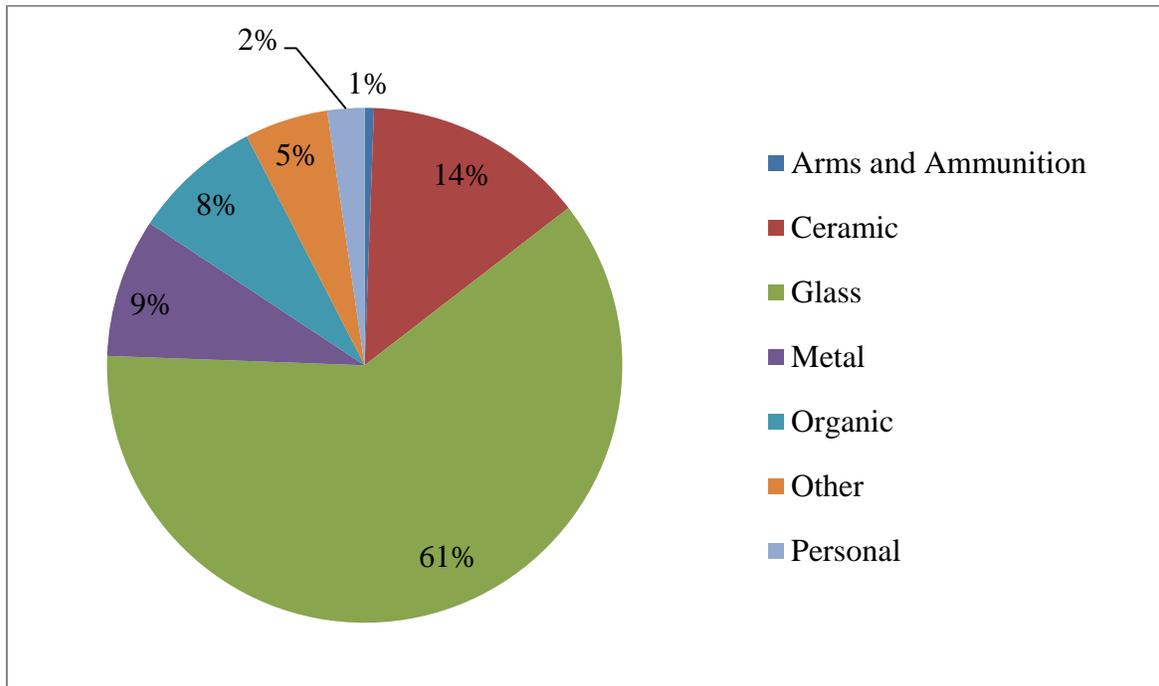


Figure 54: Phase II Shovel Testing Artifact Distribution with Architectural Materials Removed.

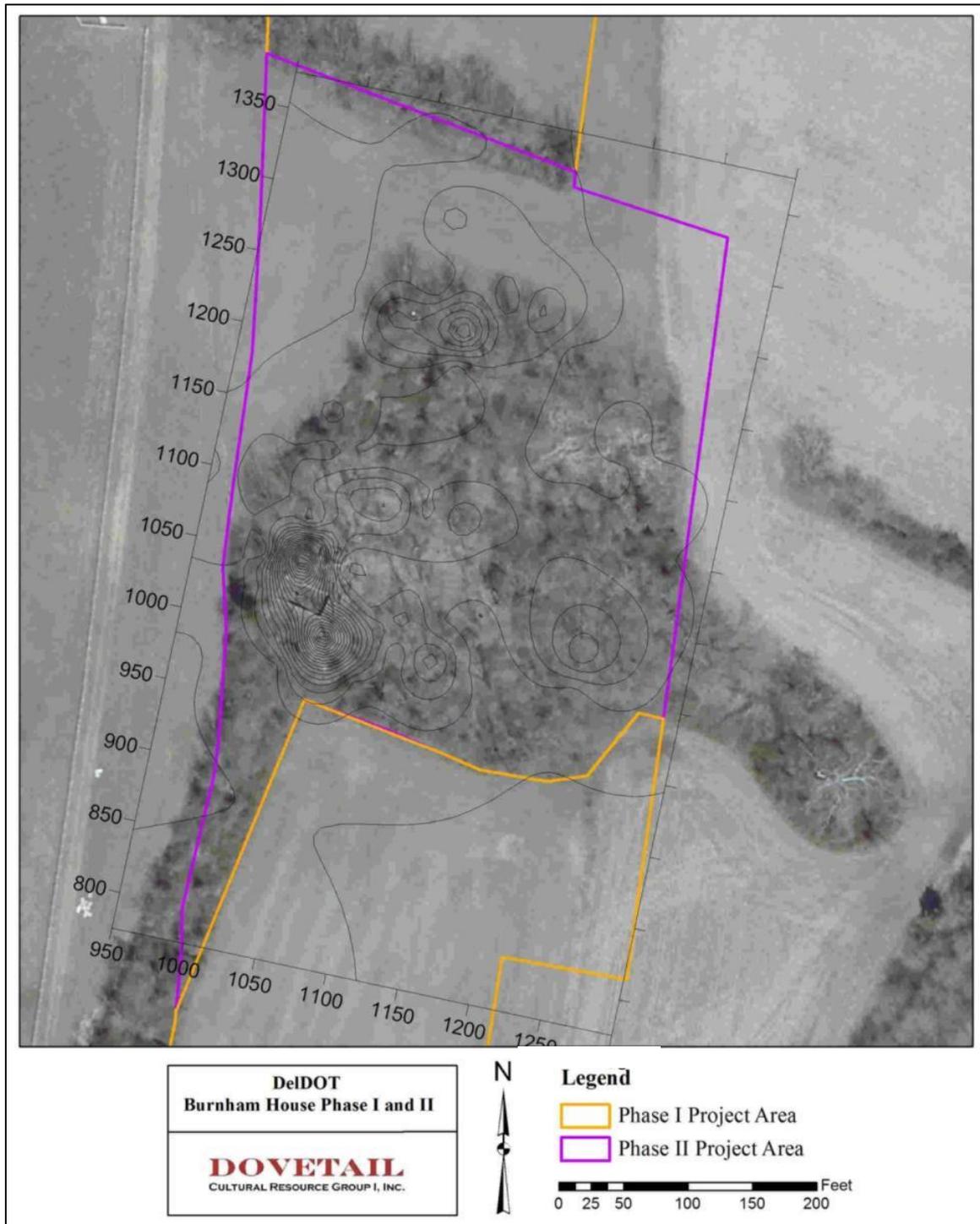


Figure 55: Surfer Overlay Showing Phase II Close-Interval Shovel Testing Artifacts Across the Burnham House Site (Interval=2 artifacts).

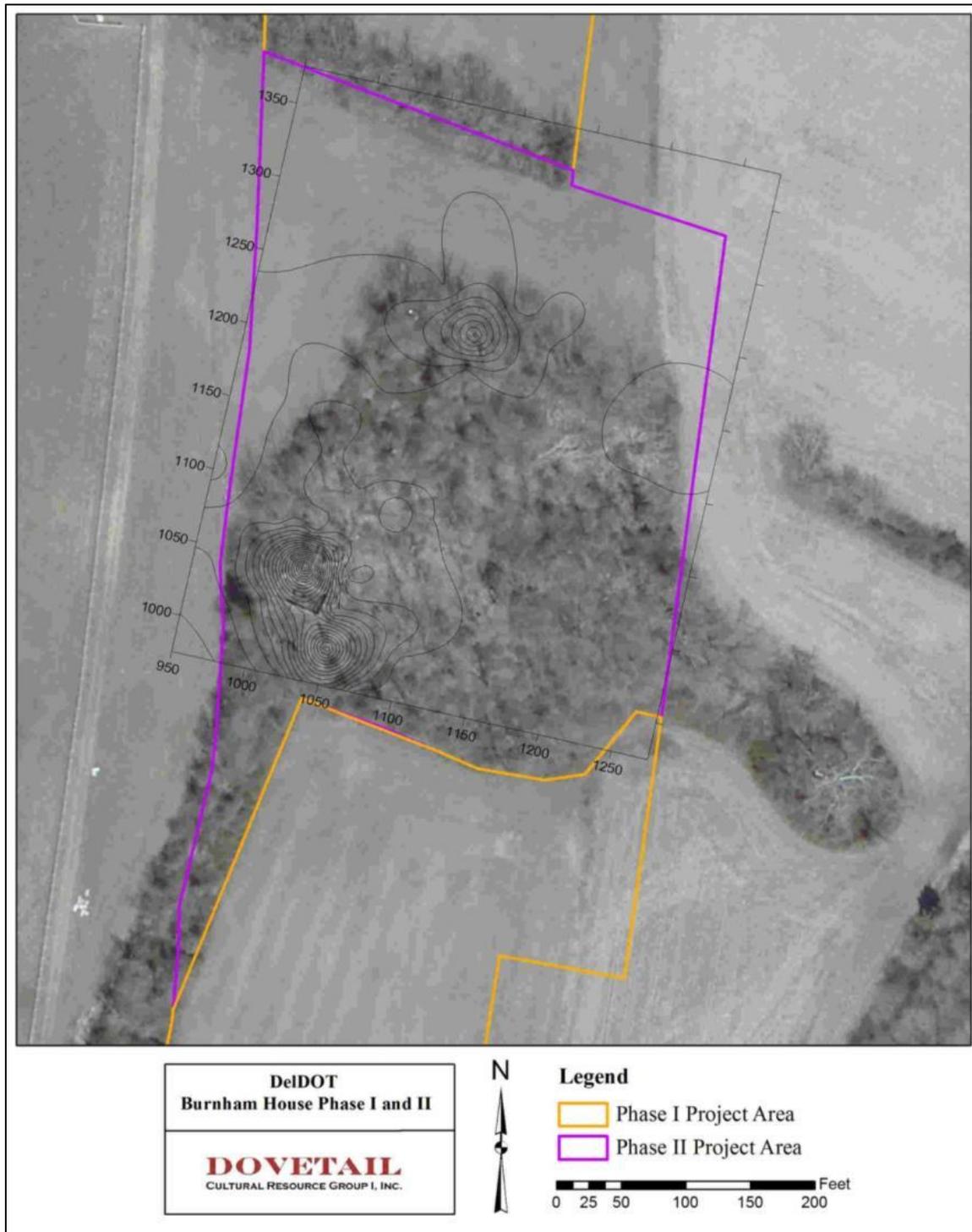


Figure 56: Surfer Overlay Showing Phase II Architectural Artifacts Recovered During Close-Interval Shovel Testing at the Burnham House Site (Interval=2 artifacts).

Test unit excavation at the Burnham House site resulted in the collection of 6,600 artifacts. As seen in the Phase II close-interval shovel testing assemblage, the Phase II test unit artifact collection was dominated by architectural materials, followed by bottle and vessel glass artifacts (Figure 57). Other categories of artifact recovered included arms and ammunition, ceramic, metal, organic and other items.

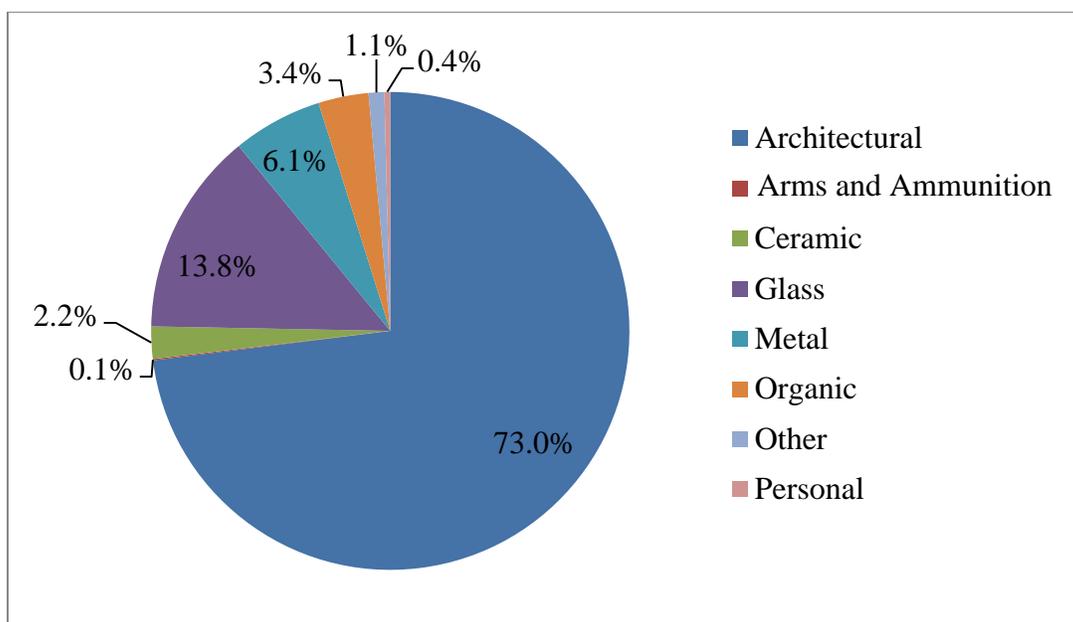


Figure 57: Phase II Test Unit Artifact Distribution.

The removal of the architectural materials from the Phase II test unit distributions helps to reveal variability within the less common artifact types, as it did in the shovel tests (Figure 58, p. 67). Once more, glass dominates the assemblage (51 percent; n=909). Like the overall distribution, however, metal makes up almost one-quarter of the artifacts recovered (23 percent; n=401), and ceramic makes up only 8 percent of the assemblage (n=144). Clearly, the test units show differences in artifact distributions compared to the shovel tests in terms of the proportions of ceramics and metals. The higher percentage of metal artifacts located in the test units is probably related to either metal tools associated with the structures or with metal hardware used on or in the buildings. The greater proportion of ceramics and glass in the shovel tests compared to the test units may also indicate that refuse was being deposited away from the buildings rather than right next to them. However, the differences seen between the two may also just as likely be due to sampling bias and not disposal patterns.

The artifacts recovered from the main house, despite their compromised stratigraphic context, did in fact corroborate the original 1860s-era construction of the house. The architectural materials, namely the nail assemblage from these units, confirmed this site history and consisted of cut nails with cut heads (1840–1890) (84 percent; n=1,749), ungalvanized wire nails (1890–1945) (14 percent; n=296), and galvanized wire nails (1945–present) (1 percent; n=16) (Figure 59, p. 67). Other architectural artifacts included post-industrial and modern window glass, both hand-made and machine-made bricks,

mud mortar and plaster, and various brads and bolts. A multitude of modern artifacts noted both within these test units and on the ground surface surrounding the house are indicative of the later twentieth century use of the site. This early- to mid-twentieth century occupation of the site was further explored via test unit excavation at the various structures noted surrounding the main house.

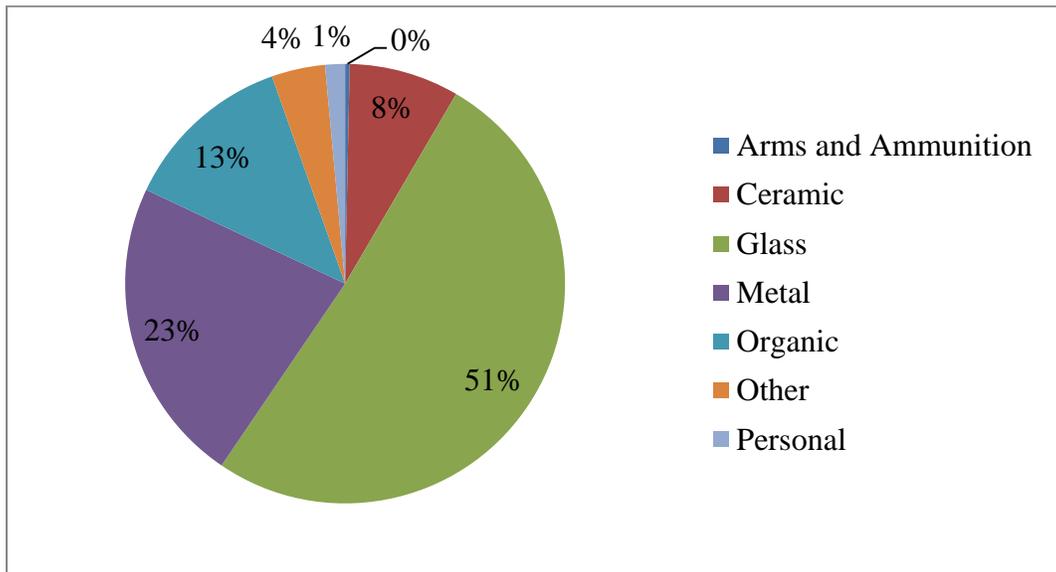


Figure 58: Phase II Test Unit Artifact Distribution with Architectural Materials Removed.

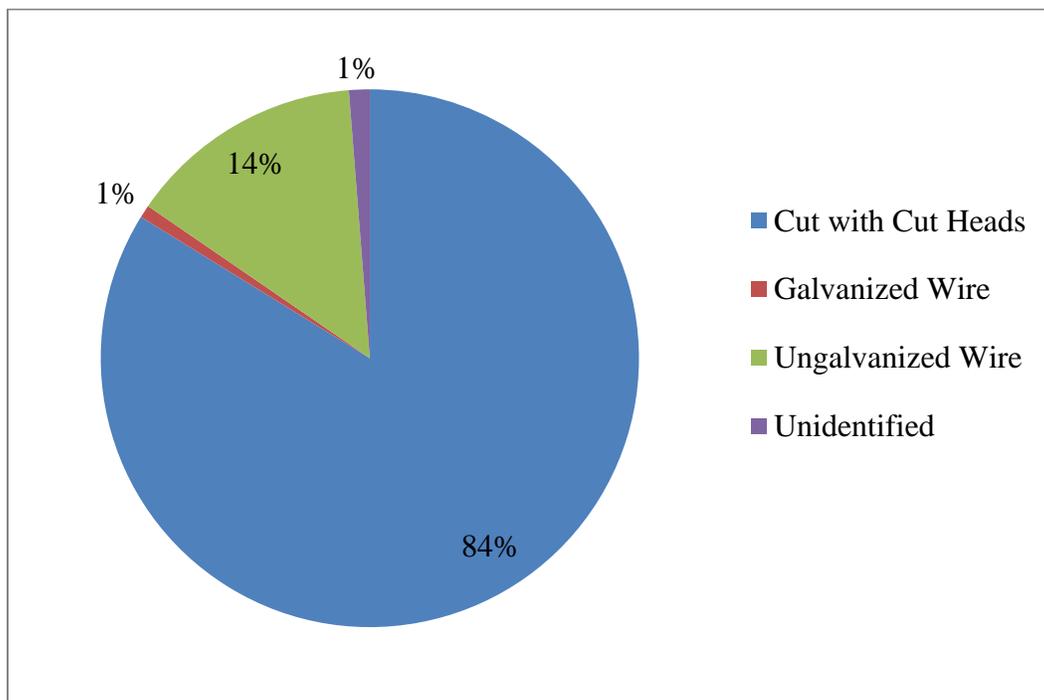


Figure 59: Distribution of Nail Types Recovered From Test Units Associated with the Burnham House (TU 1-5, and 8).

At least 228 artifacts were recovered from Test Units 16, 19, 28, and 29. They consisted of architectural materials including mud mortar, hand-made and machine-made bricks, post-industrial window glass, ungalvanized wire nails (1890–1945), and cut nails (1815–1890). Other artifacts included numerous fragments of bottle and vessel glass, unidentified metal, a .22 shell casing and one whiteware fragment (1820–present). The artifact assemblages, together with stone and mud mortar foundations, suggest that Structures 2 and 9 were likely contemporaneous with the 1860s construction of the Burnham House, rather than being associated with the later twentieth century updating of the property. Based on the lack of domestic items, such as ceramics, and 1937 aerial photography it appears these structures were barns or other farm related outbuildings (see Figure 40, p. 52).

Thirteen artifacts were recovered from Test Unit 15 (Structure 1) and were composed of architectural, glass, and ceramic fragments. These artifacts included hand-made brick, cut nails (1815–1890), ungalvanized wire nails (1890–1945), amber bottle glass, clear bottle glass, and one fragment of brown lead-glazed redware with manganese flecking (1700–1900). The artifact assemblage from this unit, coupled with the construction methods observed via excavation, suggests that this structure is associated with the twentieth century updating of the property and not with the original circa 1860s Burnham House. During this updating/construction period in the twentieth century, a series of agriculture-related structures were added to the property. As such Structure 1 likely represents a barn or agricultural building, perhaps related in some way to Structure 2 to the west. These later structures were likely added to the property in addition to already extant/earlier outbuildings (see Structure 2, 6 and 9 discussions below).

Artifacts recovered from Structure 2 totaled 1,252 and were dominated by architectural remains (72.4 percent; n=907); in particular these artifacts included mud mortar, hand-made and machine-made bricks, post-industrial window glass, ungalvanized wire nails (1890–1945), and cut nails (1815–1890). Other notable artifacts consisted of an abundance of vessel and bottle glass, whiteware (1820–present), ironstone (1840–present), one fragment of pearlware (1775–1820), American Grey stoneware (1800–1900), redware (1700–1900), mammal bone, and a variety of chain, bolts, screws, and other agriculture-related metal artifacts. The ceramic assemblage from the site was relatively small, comprising less than 2 percent (n=25) of the total Structure 2 collection.

Test Unit 14 (Structure 3) yielded a total of 26 artifacts, consisting of mammal bone, concrete, cut nails (1815–1890), mortar, cement, flat pressed metal, and one fragment of black lead-glazed redware (1700–1900). Eighty artifacts from Test Unit 13 (Structure 4), similar in composition to those recovered from Test Unit 14, were recovered. A total of 19 artifacts was recovered from Test Unit 11 (Structure 7) and included only architectural materials. These consisted of mortar, post-industrial window glass, cut nails (1815–1890), and brick fragments. The artifact assemblages from these test units, as well as the construction techniques observed, suggest that these structures were likely built in the early part of the twentieth century when the property underwent large-scale updating. Also, all appear to be outbuildings associated with the farming of the property. They all characteristically lacked domestic materials and their orientation on the property and historic aerial photography strongly indicates their agricultural function.

The artifacts recovered from Test Units 12 and 17 (Structure 6) totaled 119 (Figure 60). Not surprisingly the assemblage was dominated by architectural and metal materials, with a small number of ceramic, glass, organic, and other category artifacts. While the artifact assemblage suggests a later date, architectural components possibly date Structure 6 to the pre-Burnham House occupation of this general area. However, due to re-use of structural elements, as previously explained, a definitive date cannot be assigned to shed construction. The artifacts and exterior remains indicate a multipurpose agricultural shed, used over three centuries time, with tool, chain, hardware, and various glass remains. Additionally, the remains of exterior animal pens were observed along the western margin of the building.



Figure 60: Artifacts from Structure 6. From Top: large knife blade, green bottle glass with painted label, handpainted overlazed ironstone, porcelain insulators, mud mortar, cut nails with cut heads.

A total of 16 artifacts were recovered from Test Unit 18 (Structure 8) and significant amount of modern debris and trash was observed (Figure 61, p. 70). These results, with the lack of identifiable structural remains, indicate that the push pile likely resulted from the cleaning of the site, similar to the mechanized destruction/cleaning observed at Structure 2.



Figure 61: Artifacts from Structure 8. From Left Clockwise: green transfer-printed whiteware, plain ironstone, clear bottle glass base, amber bottle glass.

The remaining four test units (20–22 and 30) were excavated across the site, located at areas identified during close-interval shovel testing as containing artifact concentrations and the presence of notable artifacts. Test Unit 20 was placed west of close-interval shovel test N1325, E1175 in the northern portion of the site. During close-interval shovel testing the northern one-third of the site showed low artifact densities, except for a minor concentration centered around shovel test N1325, E1175. Thus, Test Unit 20 aimed to further explore the nature and extent of this concentration (Figure 62, p. 71). Excavations resulted in the collection of 13 artifacts, all of which were found in either the modern or historic plow zone strata. No features or structural remains were identified that would indicate concentrated cultural activity in this area.

Test Units 21 and 30 were excavated northeast of close-interval shovel test N1100, E1050 and were placed in this location to further explore high artifact densities at this and adjacent shovel test locations. Test Unit 21 revealed a shallowly buried stone alignment that lacked mortar or other binding agents. To further understand the origin or association of this alignment, Test Unit 30 was opened to the southwest. Unit 30 contained a dry-laid brick patio revealing that the stone alignment observed in Test Unit 21 was the stone edging for this patio (Figure 63, p. 71).

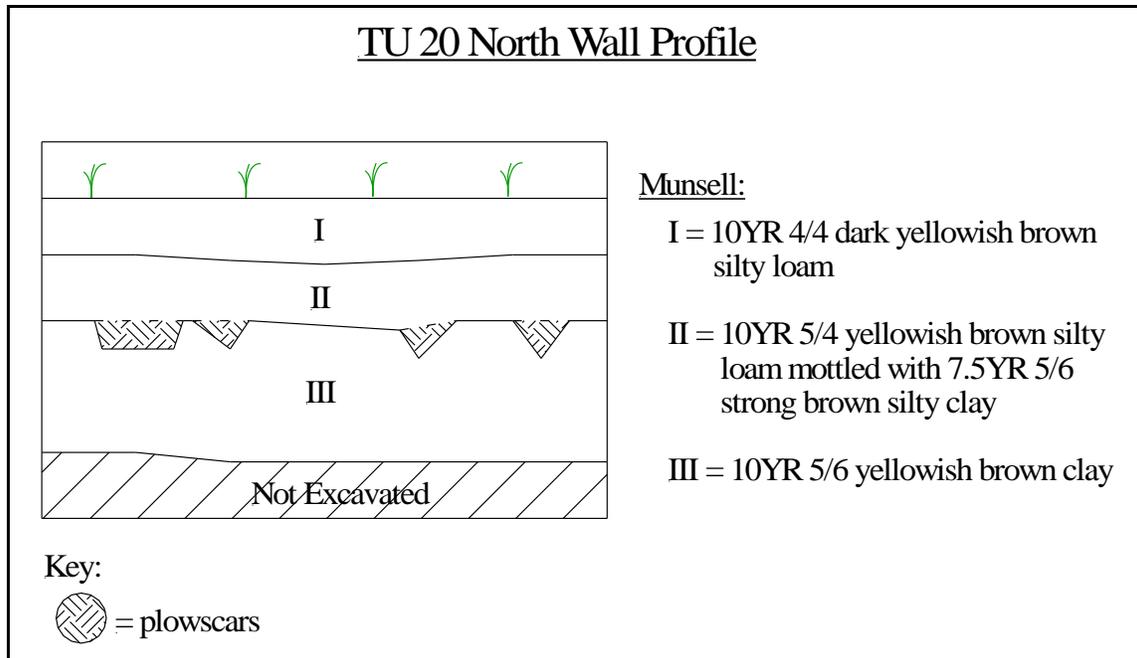


Figure 62: Test Unit 20 North Profile.



Figure 63: Plan View of TU 30 Showing Brick Patio Remains.

The patio is situated north of the main house, directly adjacent to the rear elevation. The exposed brick patio was constructed of hand-made bricks, but, given the theory outlined in the architectural analysis, it is reasonable to assume these patio bricks were re-purposed from the main house when the structural system was updated. A total of 126 artifacts was recovered from these units. The assemblage is dominated by architectural and glass materials. The glass assemblage consisted entirely of vessel and bottle glass fragments. This fact, along with the patio feature, strongly indicates that these units are reflective of the twentieth century occupation of the site.

Test Unit 22 was placed southwest of close-interval shovel test N1025, E1225. This area was identified for further exploration because of a high concentration of artifacts identified during close-interval shovel testing. Excavation revealed that this artifact concentration was ephemeral in nature, in that artifacts were strictly recovered from the upper strata and the total assemblage consisted of only 22 artifacts.

Discussion and Eligibility Evaluation

Overall, the archival research, architectural analysis, and archaeological testing conducted at the Burnham House site revealed a great deal about the history and evolution of the site, which in turn provided insight into the research goals and questions at hand. The first research goal aimed to fully understand the size and extent of the site. Through Phase I testing (including surface collection and judgmental shovel testing) and Phase II close-interval shovel testing, Dovetail was able to determine that the site is confined to the Phase II testing area. It does not extend to the north or south of the previously identified Phase II boundaries. While artifacts were recovered north and south of the Phase II testing area, it is likely that these artifacts were field scatter stemming from the agricultural practice of manuring. Phase I and II testing was bounded by the project limits of disturbance, thus these somewhat arbitrary boundaries shaped the delineation of the site area, especially to the east and west.

The second research goal that shaped investigations was to assess the vertical and horizontal integrity of the site. Subsurface integrity was most apparent through via close-interval shovel tests and test units within the Phase II site area. Test units adjacent to the Burnham House ruins showed evidence of extensive vertical disturbance in the form of modern cut and fill disturbance up to 4 feet (121.9 cm) below ground surface. Additionally, test units excavated at Structure 2 indicated that the building had been demolished using heavy machinery, leaving little of the soil and building foundation intact. Ground disturbance was also evident by multiple push piles, truncated A-horizons in various shovel tests, and the presence of subsoil on the surface in portions of the site, such as near Structure 8. Moreover, modern artifacts were found buried deeply within the soils at the main house. In fact, Coke cans, bicentennial artifacts and other modern materials were found in excess of 4 feet (30.48 cm) below surface in the kitchen, highlighting extensive disturbances. Based on this evidence, Dovetail concluded that large portions of the site have compromised vertical and horizontal integrity. Portions of the site do remain intact, yet these areas are truncated by extensive disturbance. It is also

important to note that the greatest disturbance was noted within and immediately adjacent to the Burnham House ruins.

The final research goal was to assess the chronological history of the site. Through systematic architectural and archaeological investigations, augmented by archival research, a firm grasp on the history and development of the immediate site has been obtained, including and a general understanding of the development of the historic parcel. Architectural and archaeological analyses indicated that the Burnham House was constructed in the late 1860s. Based on similarities in materials and construction techniques it appears that at least two of the structural remains on the property are likely contemporaneous with the construction of the main house. Subsequently, the main house and the surrounding property were updated in the early-twentieth century, resulting in additions to the main house and the construction of a series of poured concrete foundation outbuildings. Archival research corroborates the site history, but also indicates an earlier occupation of the property to the north, beyond the current project limits. Archaeological surface collections from the northernmost Phase I area revealed a small subset of artifacts that pre-date the Burnham House, possibly an indication of the earlier occupation of the parcel. Yet, these artifacts were an ephemeral field scatter and not directly representative of concentrated cultural activity.

Dating of the site was accomplished through the intersection of historical, archaeological, and architectural evidence on the site. The analysis of photographs taken of the Burnham House in 1988 revealed the building to be vernacular Gothic Revival in style, which tends to be indicative of the mid to late-nineteenth century. An historical reference to a “New 2 Story Frame Dwelling” in a Farmers Mutual Insurance policy taken out on January 13, 1873 for the property, combined with a depiction of what appears to be this house on the 1868 Atlas of the State of Delaware, helps to narrow the date even further (Pomeroy and Beers 1868). The late 1860s construction date for the house is confirmed by the nail assemblage recovered from the site, which overwhelmingly consists of cut nails with cut heads dating from 1840–1890. The preponderance of vessel glass in the assemblage, making up the majority of artifacts when architectural debris is removed from the analysis, also points to a post-1860s occupation of the site since the glass industry started to become significantly more productive in the mid-nineteenth century due to rapid technological changes. Finally, the ceramics at the site also corroborate the late 1860s construction date for the Burnham House, with a mean ceramic date of 1882 and a relative abundance of ceramic types that are indicative of the late-nineteenth century, including ironstone and plain whiteware.

The archaeological, architectural, and historical evidence not only reveals the construction date for the Burnham House and the initial occupation of the site, but also helps to show the history and chronology of landscape change (Figure 65, p. 76). The architectural analysis of the Burnham House ruins shows that the building underwent two large-scale renovations, one in the early-twentieth century and the other in the mid-twentieth century. Archaeological evidence for the construction dates of the outbuildings associated with the Burnham House also reveal that a significant rebuilding and landscape change occurred in the early-twentieth century since five of the eight dateable structures were erected during this period (Table 3, p.74). While no artifacts were

recovered that precisely dated these renovations, it is likely that all, or most, of them occurred when the property was sold to Ezra Evans in 1913. Evans’ occupation as a general farmer likely required several outbuildings for agriculture-related tasks, which he probably constructed on the site from 1913 until his death in 1927. The nail assemblage at the site provides evidence in support of this assertion, with the second-most numerous nail type recovered being ungalvanized wire nails, common from 1890 to 1945, and likely associated with the early-twentieth century reorganization of the site (Figure 64, p. 74). Additionally, the timeline of property ownership also indicates that Evans was likely the person who renovated the Burnham House in the early-twentieth century at the same time that he was updating the agricultural landscape associated with the site.

Table 3: Dates and Use of Burnham House Structures 1–9.

Construction and Use Period	Building/Structure
Late 1860s	Burnham House and Structures 2, 6, 9
Early-Twentieth Century	Structures 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8

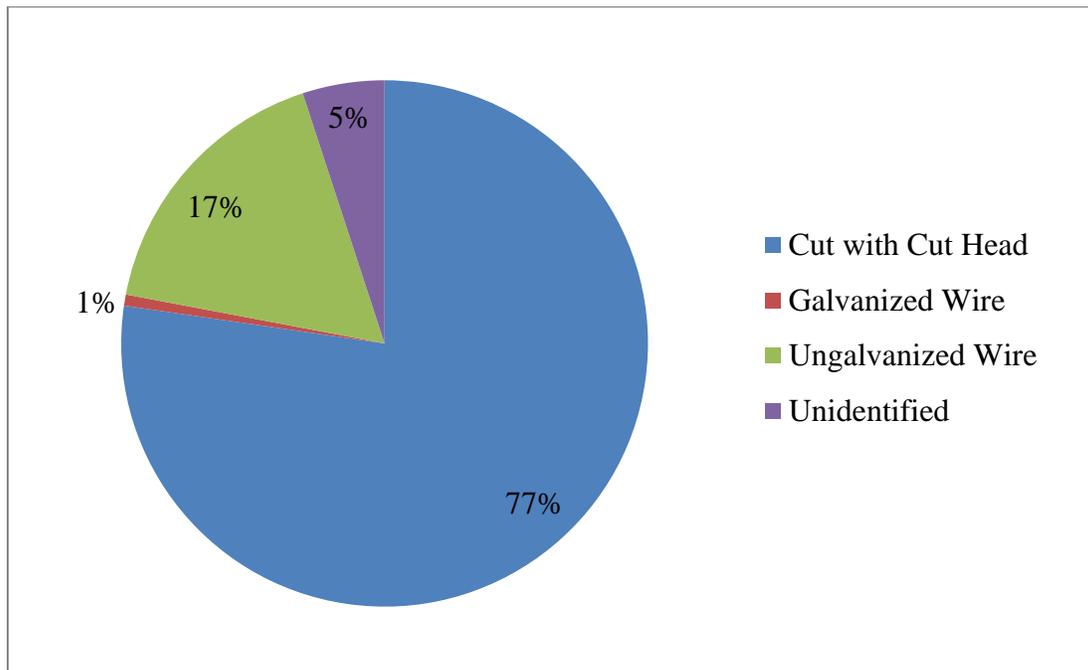


Figure 64: Distribution of Nail Types for the Entire Phase II Excavation.

The end of the occupation of the Burnham House site is somewhat more nebulous than its construction and renovation. Historical records indicate that the site was no longer heavily occupied by the early 1960s, and perhaps earlier, with the sale of the property to a series of people who owned it for short periods, beginning in 1953 (Baublitz et al. 2006).

The 1988 photographs of the site show the Burnham House in a state of disrepair with broken windows, a failing roof, and overgrown yard, indicating that it had been abandoned for some time previously (Appendix A, p. 87). Aerial photography reveals that the house burned down sometime between 1992 and 1997 (Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, CHRIS 2011). The archaeological excavation confirms this through the presence of burn layers in the units near the Burnham House. However, artifacts related to the end of the site occupation are less visible. The presence of modern trash such as Styrofoam, aluminum Coke cans, and plastic bags in disturbed layers related to the destruction and grading of parts of the site are the primary markers of the end of the site's occupation, but were deposited as many as three decades after the occupation ended, and perhaps more. In all likelihood, the permanent occupation of the Burnham House site ended around 1953 when T. Arthur Evans sold the property, although disturbances at the site have made this difficult to confirm.

The house was constructed during the Period of Rebuilding in St. Georges Hundred (1850–1880) (Herman et al. 1985). This period is marked by a consolidation of agricultural properties and is characterized by the joining of domestic and agricultural spheres. The Burnham House and its multiple associated agricultural outbuildings are likely reflective of these sentiments. Additionally, the abandonment of earlier dwellings along Old Reedy Island Road to the north is also related to this restructuring and centralization, as encapsulated in the re-use of Structure 6. Despite being somewhat representative of the rebuilding period in St. Georges Hundred, far better and more intact examples of this type exist. The National Register Form for this thematic nomination contains 30 NRHP-eligible properties characteristic of this period, many no more than 10 miles (16 km) from the Burnham house, suggesting the diachronic use of the parcel is quite similar in nature to general socio-cultural and economic trends occurring in New Castle County. The Burnham House site does not represent any new themes or temporal periods not currently represented within the broader spectrum of nineteenth and twentieth century studies in the surrounding area. Additionally, the subsequent rebuilding and altering of the property in the early-twentieth century has further compromised the remains characteristic of rebuilding.

The results of these research avenues shaped the eligibility evaluation of the site for listing on the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, and D, and in turn will guide future field initiatives in the area. Investigations and research determined that the site was established during the Period of Industrialization and Capitalizations (1830–1880) and then occupied through the period of Urbanization and Suburbanization (1880–1940) (De Cunzo and Catts 1990).

The site was likely abandoned around the mid-twentieth century and then was destroyed by fire in the 1990s. There are no significant associations between these deposits and a significant historical event or pattern of events. As such, the Burnham House site is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

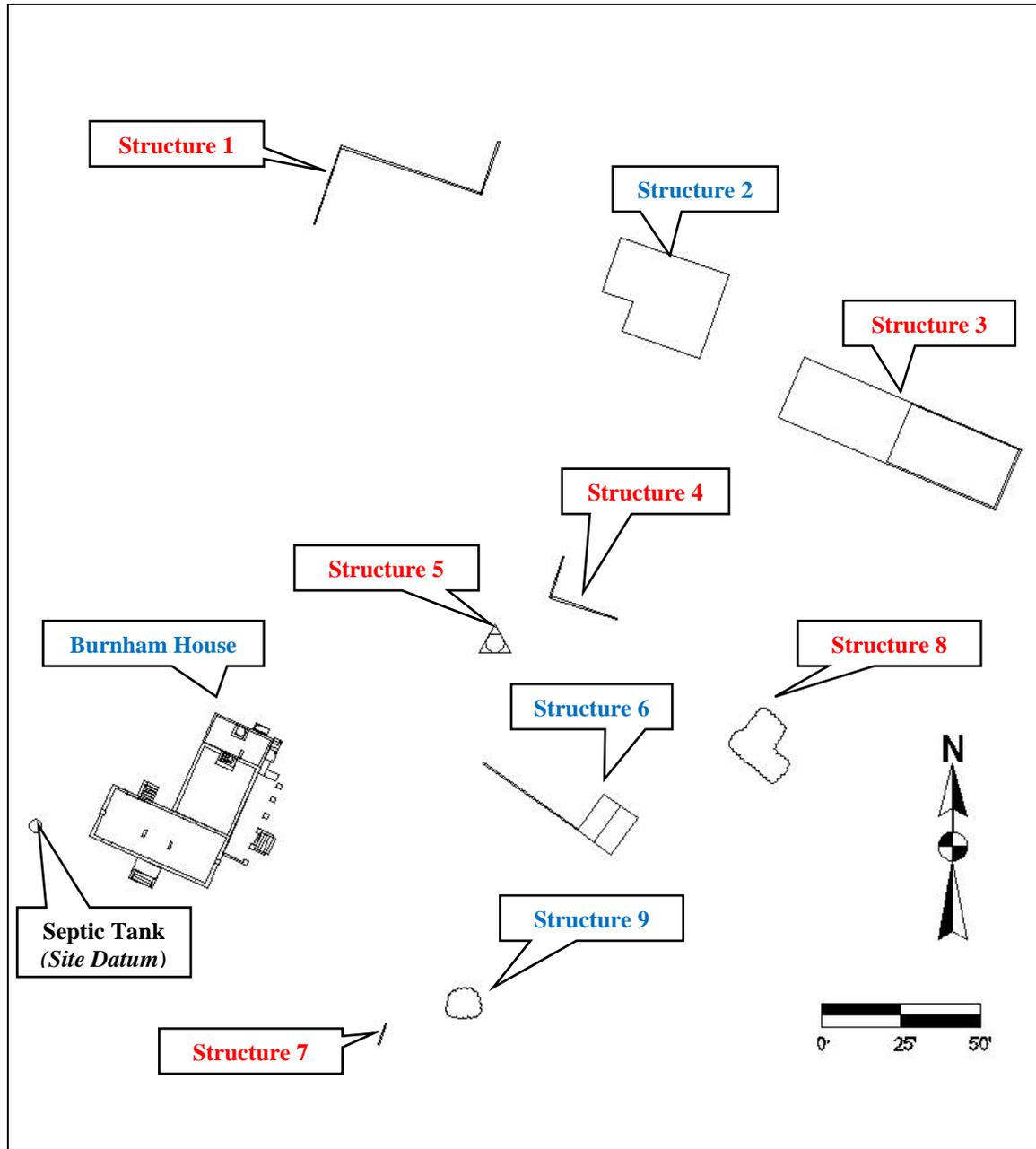


Figure 65: Burnham House Site (7NC-F-157) Plan Map with Early-Twentieth Century Structures Highlighted in Red and Late-1860s Structures in Blue.

Owned or occupied by 20 different individuals during use life, the Burnham House was never associated with significant persons. Archival research conducted by Dovetail thoroughly investigated Federal Population and Agricultural Census records, Orphans Court records, probate records, warrants and surveys, historic maps, deeds and mortgages, insurance records, and various tax assessments dating between 1780 and 1917. Genealogical records and historical publications were also consulted. As no documentation was located indicating that a significant person or persons resided at the

Burnham House, Dovetail recommends the site not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B (APPENDIX B: CHAIN OF TITLE, p. 91).

Defined as, “Properties significant as representatives of the manmade expression of culture or technology,” Criterion C of the NHP demands eligible properties be worthy examples representative of American culture during their period of use (National Park Service 1995:11). The Burnham House and associated structures do not illustrate distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction and therefore, are not recommended eligible under Criterion C.

Given the lack of extensive vertical and horizontal integrity at the site and the presence of far more intact sites characteristic of the Period of Rebuilding in St. Georges Hundred (1850–1880), this site does not exhibit the potential to yield further information on domestic life, subsistence/agriculture, and/or settlement patterns in St. Georges Hundred or New Castle County. As no potential information can be gained, Dovetail recommends the site not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.

As such, the Burnham House site is recommended Not Eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, or D.

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